



GOSPEL DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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A MINISTRY OF GRACE CHAPEL

For Families

THE GREATEST GIFTS

Start with prayer, then ask...



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What is the greatest present you've ever been given?

God says that some gifts are better than others. The Bible tells us that faith, hope and love are the greatest gifts!



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

How would you describe these three things— faith, hope, and love? Why do you think those three things are important to have?



READ TOGETHER: 1 Corinthians 13:8–13

DIGGING DEEPER



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Why are faith, hope, and love the most important than some of the other spiritual gifts that Paul says will pass away?

1 Corinthians is a book of the Bible, but it was originally a letter written from the apostle Paul to a church in the city of Corinth, a place in modern day Greece (show them on a map or globe if you have one handy). The people who lived there were called the Corinthians. There were a lot of things the people there were doing wrong and Paul was trying to correct their thinking and behavior. One of the things they were doing wrong is that some of the people were saying they were more spiritual than the rest of the church because had special gifts or skills from God. Paul told them that everyone in the church is given a different gift by the Holy Spirit and all of them are equally important, even the things that might seem small.

Paul said the church is like a body—some parts are smaller or bigger or have different functions, but the body needs every part to work together to be healthy (1 Corinthians 12).



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What are some different parts of our body and their different functions? Can you see how each of them is important and unique from other parts?

Like the different parts of the body, Paul says each part is needed. He also tells them that none of the spiritual gifts matter if they don't have love. Everything we do as Christians should be done in love because God is love (1 Corinthians 13:1–8).

This passage may seem like a bunch of riddles at first, but they all talk about what things will be like when we get to heaven. Paul says none of the spiritual gifts people were bragging about will last into heaven, because they won't be needed.

- *We won't need special knowledge or prophecies from God or a special language to talk to Him because He will be right there with us!*
- *We will be all able to talk directly to Him, and we'll hear His voice perfectly. Paul says it will be like growing from a child into a grown-up.*

In our lives here on earth, we are like spiritual children. We need the spiritual gifts to draw closer to God, like kids need training wheels on their bike. But when we get to heaven, we can put the “training wheels” behind us because we will be with Him.

Get this: none of the spiritual gifts they were bragging about will last into eternity! But Paul says three things will last—faith, hope, and love. Those are the things they should be working to develop.

Paul also wrote a letter to the Thessalonian church. In it Paul talked about faith, hope, and love too. The Thessalonians were going through a time of suffering and persecution, but Paul said they were doing a good job of living out their faith even though their times were hard. He said they were an example of to the rest of the churches because of their faith, hope, and love!



READ TOGETHER: 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3

The Thessalonians weren't arguing about who was better or bragging about their spiritual gifts. They were serving others in faith, hope, and love— even though they were going through hard times!

We are living in hard times right now too. We need the kind of faith, hope, and love the Thessalonians had. But it may feel really hard to have faith right now, when things seem scary. It may feel hard to have hope, when we don't know if things will get better. It can even be hard to feel God's love sometimes these days. But the good news is that we don't have to try to have faith, hope, and love on our own strength. They are gifts from God (Romans 15:13; Ephesians 2:8–9; 1 John 4:7). If we are feeling low on faith, hope, or love, all we have to do is ask Him!

APPLY IT TO LIFE

Like the Thessalonians, we can bring all our worries, doubts, and fears to God and ask Him to replace them with faith, hope, and love. We may have to do it over and over again every day. That's okay, in fact, it is even normal. Fears and doubts and worries creep in every day. But we can fight them with

prayer and God's Word. We can overcome, just like the Thessalonians did. Do you know what the Bible says about faith, hope, and love?

- *Even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains (Matthew 17:20).*
- *The kind of hope we get through hard times and suffering never disappoints us (Romans 5:5).*
- *Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).*

Faith, hope, and love are what will get us through even the hardest of times. The Bible even promises that God will grow them in us through our suffering. Thank you, Jesus for giving us faith, hope, and love!



PARENT STORY:

Describe a time when God gave you faith, hope, or love in a difficult situation.



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Create any kind of artwork (painting, drawing, collage, etc.) with these three symbols—a cross for faith, an anchor for hope, and a heart for love.



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank you for gifting us faith, hope, and love. Help us to remember to come to you when we are feeling low on faith, hope, or love. Please grow these three things in us through your Holy Spirit. In Jesus's name, Amen.



MEMORIZE TOGETHER:

"Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love" – 1 Corinthians 13:13