

- Whether you are single or married, what are ways you can actively prepare yourself for a long lasting, life giving, satisfying relationship?
- What are some positive habits a single person may want to intentionally look for in a spouse?
- If you are married, what are some specific positive habits you first saw in your spouse when you were dating that you now benefit from? In what ways could you see your spouse was preparing to be a good partner?

If you are married, consider communicating these positive habits to your spouse and thanking them for their efforts.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:3-13 after reading the notes and questions below.

Important Note: As someone *slowly* reads 1 Corinthians 13:3-13 and then allows a couple minutes of silence afterwards, quietly consider these next few sets of questions and ideas:

- What stands out to you from this passage? For example, in what ways does this passage speak to or confirm a desire of your heart, stir up longing, bring up anger or sadness, leave you grateful, cause you to want to change, make you think of someone, or so on?
- Ideas and talk of perfect love can cause us to think about ways we missed out on love, love we are not getting, or even guilty for love we are not giving. Be open to admitting mistakes, you're hurt or angry feelings, and be open to giving or receiving needed forgiveness.
- While it's a normal and healthy human desire to be well loved by others, we can sometimes spend our life looking for perfect love to come from other imperfect humans. The good news is that our desire for perfect love can be found in God — through various Bible verses, God promises his perfect and never ending love to each of us. His love not only has the power to build us up, it has the power to restore us, and the power to help us love others better. Be open God's love for you.

There are no wrong or right answers. Be open to whatever you or God may bring up.

If you are comfortable, share about this experience.

Closing Prayer: God, regardless of our marital status, or how much love we feel we are currently getting from others, help us to grow more aware of your perfect love for us. Help us to experience your love, and in turn, to grow better at giving love away. Help us to be wise and to take responsibility for the things we can in our life — we want to become the best versions of ourselves for our own sake and for the sake of others. For our single friends who looking for lasting love, help them to honor themselves well on the journey and to experience your best for them.