



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dear Life Group Leaders,

We hope the first month of the New Year has treated you well. To warm you up in the midst of the winter's cold, our focus this coming week will be on the priority of love. Having finished a short study of the spiritual gifts, we'll now look at Paul's advice on how to discover and develop our gifts. That is how he ended 1 Corinthians 12. He wrote, "But eagerly desire the greater gifts," but then he immediately adds, "And now I will show you the most excellent way." I don't think that's a coincidence. I believe he's telling us that the best way to discover your spiritual gift is to start serving the family of God in the power and love of the Holy Spirit, and very soon you'll notice a pattern taking a place of how the Holy Spirit likes to use you. That pattern is a reflection of your spiritual gifts. So focus first on love, and your gifts will become apparent to you and everyone else.

Our study this week, then, focuses on verse 31 of 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and the first 3 verses from chapter 13. To stimulate your thinking and help you prepare for your discussion, we're providing the audio version of John MacArthur's message on 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 called "The Prominence of Love." The coaching tip focuses on the same theme this week. We've included an icebreaker giving you an opportunity to discuss what Gary Chapman calls "love languages." I'm sure it'll still be a lot of interesting conversation. In addition to that, the article that's included describes 4 challenges or obstacles that often impede Christian community, especially in a small group. We hope you'll find it helpful.

Please let us know if we can help you in any way, and thank you to those who responded to our inquiry about the studies you're doing with your small groups. We appreciate you!

Pastors Gary and Glen