Participant Handout

Big Idea

A healthy church community is not built on human effort, but is a direct reflection of the grace, love, and fellowship flowing from the triune God.

How to Use This Handout

- Read the passage.
- Notice what the text says.
- Bring your questions and reflections to the discussion.
- Leave space for what God is showing you.

Day 1 Afternoon - Grace, Love, and Fellowship

Main Theme:

A healthy church community is a direct reflection of the grace, love, and fellowship flowing from God.

Set the Scene:

Paul concludes his intense, tear-stained correspondence with five rapid-fire imperatives designed to heal deep relational wounds.

Read:

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11, NKJV)

Think About:

- Why does Paul end such a severe letter with these gentle, unifying commands?
- What does it mean to "be of good comfort" (or encourage one another) after a season of conflict?

Notice:

- The affectionate address: _____
- Five rapid commands: _____
- What this shows about God's presence: _____

Apply:

Who is one person I can actively encourage or comfort today?

_____

_____

Day 2 - The Grace of Jesus

Main Theme:

Grace is the foundational element of the Christian life that makes restoration possible.

Set the Scene:

Paul almost always begins and ends his letters by pointing his readers to the grace of Jesus Christ as the core reality of the gospel.

Read:

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9, NKJV)

Think About:

- What does it mean that Jesus "became poor" for our sakes?
- How does understanding Christ's ultimate sacrifice define what "grace" truly is?

Notice:

- Christ's original status: _____
- The action He took: _____
- What this shows about our spiritual riches: _____

Apply:
When I am tempted to hold a grudge this week, how can I remind myself that Jesus became poor for me?

_____

_____

Day 3 - The Love of God

Main Theme:
Love is not just something God does; it is the very essence of who He is.

Set the Scene:
As Paul pronounces his final blessing, the Apostle John echoes this profound truth about God's core identity.

Read:
"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, because that God has sent His only begotten Son..." (1 John 4:8-9, NKJV)

Think About:
- Why is the statement "God is love" so much more powerful than saying "God is loving"?
- How does the cross serve as the ultimate, undeniable proof that God loves us?

Notice:
- A definitive statement: _____
- The visible proof of love: _____
- What this shows about God's nature: _____

Apply:
How can I spend five minutes today simply thanking God for His relentless love without asking Him for anything else?

_____

_____

Day 4 - The God of Love

Main Theme:
To a fearful, pagan world, the idea of a God of love and peace was a radical, earth-shattering novelty.

Set the Scene:
When Paul writes to the Corinthians, who lived in a city saturated with fearful pagan temples, he introduces a concept of the Divine that turns their entire worldview upside down.

Read:
"...live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11, NKJV)

Think About:
- Why would hearing about a "God of love and peace" be so revolutionary to someone raised in ancient Corinth?
- How does viewing God as a God of peace completely change the way we approach Him in prayer?

Notice:
- The double title for God: _____
- The promise of His presence: _____
- What this shows about the gospel's power: _____

Apply:
If I am carrying a view of God that makes Him seem angry or distant, how can I deliberately surrender that false image today?

_____

_____

Day 5 - The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Main Theme:

True fellowship is the deep, unbreakable relational bond created by the Holy Spirit.

Set the Scene:

Paul ends his letter by praying for the "fellowship" (communion) of the Holy Spirit, which means "shared participation" and is the ultimate cure for division.

Read:

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." (2 Corinthians 13:14, NKJV)

Think About:

- What is the difference between casual socializing and true spiritual "communion" or fellowship?
- Why is the Holy Spirit essential for creating this kind of deep bond between diverse people?

Notice:

- The three gifts: _____
- The three sources: _____
- What this shows about the Spirit's work: _____

Apply:

Who from church can I invite to share a meal or coffee with me this week to build genuine fellowship?

_____

_____

Day 6 - Our Triune God

Main Theme:

The perfect unity of the Godhead is the ultimate model for the church.

Set the Scene:

In one of the clearest Trinitarian blessings in the New Testament, Paul shows how all three members of the Godhead are fully engaged in the plan of redemption.

Read:

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." (2 Corinthians 13:14, NKJV)

Think About:

- Why is it so encouraging to know that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all completely engaged in saving you?
- How does the perfect, selfless love between the members of the Godhead serve as a model for how we should treat each other?

Notice:

- Three distinct Persons: _____
- Three distinct gifts: _____
- What this shows about divine teamwork: _____

Apply:

How can I use this verse as a daily blessing over my family or church community this week?

_____

_____

Day 7 Reflection

This week I discovered:

1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

A truth about Jesus I want to remember:

_____

_____

One step I will take this week:

_____

_____

Prayer:

_____

_____