



Love Episode 1 – (Konect Series)

Welcome (10 mins)

Go round the group asking them to:
Name 5 specific people or places that they love

Or:

Get people to do a mime of someone/somewhere they love

Worship (20 mins)

1 Corinthians 13 'love' passage (Message) – type it out and then cut it up into the different bits/phrases. Put all the bits of the paper face down on the table and get each person to take one bit. Give people 2 minutes to think about it (music on in background). Then go round the group and get people to say what comes to mind when they read this 'phrase'. What is God saying to them?

Or:

Read 1 Corinthians 13 (Message) and get people to write their own version of the passage.

Or:

Listen to Matt Redman 'The Father's Song' (or another song that focuses on love as its theme) and then write a love song from God to you. Share what you put.

Word (40 mins)

1. In pairs – come up with 2 definitions/sayings of what 'love is...' Have a silly one and a serious one.
2. Then as a whole group, brainstorm what different kinds of love there are.
3. Now, using some props, here are the greek words for love:
 - a. Affection (greek = storge <STORG>) – this is a warm comfy love that comes from knowing people for a long time. It grows on you over time. Prop: a teddy bear or pair of slippers.
 - b. Friendship (greek = phileo <FILL-E-O>) – happens between people where there is a common interest, a shared enthusiasm. Prop: a mirror (because in a true friend you see something reflected that is important to you).
 - c. Romance (greek = eros) – when you are besotted with



someone else. You will do anything for that person because you think they are so wonderful. These days, sex intrudes too quickly and it becomes a way of satisfying selfish desires. True love values the other person. 'Eros' is delighting in someone for who they are, not what you can get out of them. Prop = a bunch of flowers or a heart shape or a picture of someone?!

Now get people to think of examples in their own lives of these different kinds of loves. They overlap a lot!

Now, God's love...to express God's love, the writers in the New Testament used a very rare word.

- d. God's love (greek = agape <A-GA-PAY>) – this is the highest and best form of love. It is different to friendship because it is not just about those we 'click' with. It is different to romantic love because it is not primarily 'a strong feeling'. It is different to 'affection' because of its strength and because of what 'agape' love will do for someone else. It is not deserved or earned. It is sacrificial, unselfish, abundantly generous. The ultimate expression of God's love is the fact that he gave the most precious thing that he had to rescue people who have the freedom to completely ignore him. Prop = a cross.

NB. you may want to pray at this stage and use some Scripture to help you in this.

Now get someone to read Romans 5:5 as you do the visual demo below

'And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us.'

Now as a visual demo: (prepare beforehand a plastic cup with some holes punched in it near the top, a jug of water, a big bowl to stand the cup in)

As the verse is read start pouring liquid into the paper cup prepared earlier and say that this is what God has done with his love. He gives it to us freely, in fact he pours it out all over our lives. It is not only for us but it is given so that we might also overflow with that love (as water reaches the top of the cup it should start to pour out the holes). And God keeps giving his love because he wants us to give it to others.

Witness (20 mins)

Draw a big heart and write all of God's characteristics inside – love,

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kindness, patience etc.

Then write on pieces of paper the names of people you are praying for that they may come to know and experience God's heart for them.

Find Scriptures and write these out on paper and put them in as well.
E.g. John 3:16; Eph 2:8; Phil 1:9-11; Col 1:13; 1 Thess 1:4

Pray in your heads and out loud for these people.

Notes

Aim: To understand the nature of God's love and why he gives it to us

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