

Fear vs Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

INTRODUCTION: Start by asking someone to open in prayer and then ask your group to reflect on Michael's message from Sunday;

- Ask someone to give a summary
- What stood out to you?
- Which thought or story challenged you and why?

READ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and share any revelations or insights.

Are there people in your life or world that you fear? Is there any people group whose influence on society you fear?

Michael shared that fear makes people take flight or freeze. What is your first response?

What would help you to take a path of love instead?

What would a path of love look like? This may be love for people you work for, or with, people in your neighbourhood, our society or even your family.

Have you ever felt persecution, or seen others experience it? Share of that experience.

Can you identify people or groups that have been persecuted recently in our society? Were you or are you party to that persecution? Consider this carefully and share your answers.

Share a situation where you have felt entitled or acted as God's judge, jury and executioner. Share what you learnt.

Take time to pray for the persecuted Church, to pray also for the persecuted people in our society. Pray that each member of the group be filled with God's love for others.