



## Stubborn Love | November 16, 2016

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Love can and will be painful, but it's better to feel pain than nothing at all. Like God, be stubborn in your love for others. Don't ask for easy; ask for worth it!

#### Key Verse

##### 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (MSG)

*If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.*

#### Discussion

Anyone who has lost a loved one, been hurt by someone they love, has had trust broken, or believed in someone that failed them knows that love can be painful. Depending on the situation the hole created has varying degrees of pain, nonetheless, what remains is a painful hole that takes time to heal. In these moments we want the pain to go away and sometimes vow to never get hurt again.

1. What are some examples of situations where love can hurt the most?

The Lumineers have a song called *Stubborn Love* that proclaims, "It's better to feel pain than nothing at all. The opposite of love is indifference." While we typically avoid pain at all costs, pain at the expense of love is better than feeling nothing at all.

2. What pain in your life has caused you to think about pulling away, pulling in, and avoiding love altogether?

Paul says in 1 Corinthians that we can do all the right things, work hard, give to the poor, but we are "bankrupt without love." God knows what it is like to have the ones He loves hurt Him, but He loves the unlovable. God is the best example of "Stubborn Love." When all rational thinking says to pull away, God shows us how to pull closer...to love more.

3. Share an example of when God's love was stubborn enough to love you through times when you may not have deserved it.
4. In what places do you need to stop resisting love as a result of the pain or fear of pain you might experience?

#### What's Next?

God created us to experience meaning as a result of loving relationships. Like God, be stubborn in your love. Do it when you don't feel like it. Do it when it costs you something. Do it when it's painful. In a world that seems so full of hate, love recklessly! Also consider the places you have been hurt that may prevent you from wanting to love again. Talk with God and ask Him to help you risk pain again so you don't miss out on meaning.