



STUDY GUIDE – July 19, 2020

Message Title: Fire In My Bones
The Only Thing That Counts
Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

What is your favorite “love song”? Why? or
 If you had to sing a “love song” to your significant other, what would it be?

Pray:

Dear Lord, You are worthy of our time and praise. We know you desire for us to live out Your Word, especially when it comes to faith expressing itself through love. Help us to live in such a way that we cannot separate the concepts of faith and love. Combining the two will help us to live more fully and to demonstrate You more clearly, and a time when the world needs it the most. Strengthen us as we learn. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Get Started:

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 and 8-13

- Why do good spiritual acts gain "nothing" for us if we do them without love?
- How can we tell whether one’s motivation is really love?

Watch and Discuss video:

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5 run counter to typical worldviews. Read the chart below.

- Which of these contrasts most grabs your attention and why?

	<u>Kingdom of the World</u>	<u>Kingdom of Jesus</u>
v.3	Blessed are the self-confident , for they can accomplish anything.	Blessed are the poor in spirit , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
v.4	Blessed are the excited , for they’re doing awesome!	Blessed are those who mourn , for they shall be comforted.
v.5	Blessed are those who do what they have to do to win , for they’re unstoppable.	Blessed are the meek , for they shall inherit the earth.
v.6	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for success , for they will get it.	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness , for they shall be satisfied

v.7	Blessed are those who get even , for nobody can push them around.	Blessed are the merciful , for they shall receive mercy.
v.8	Blessed are those who look good , for they will impress others.	Blessed are the pure in heart , for they shall see God.
v.9	Blessed are those who look good , for they will impress others.	Blessed are the pure in heart , for they shall see God.
v.10	Blessed are those who stir up the action , for they get lots of attention.	Blessed are the peacemakers , for they shall be called sons of God.
v.11	Blessed are the safe , for they will be comfortable.	Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reflect and Commit:

Read James 2:14-17

Often we think of love as a feeling or an emotion. But God's call to love is different. It is not a feeling. It's a motivation for action that we are free to choose or reject. It is a sacrificial love that voluntarily suffers inconvenience or discomfort if necessary, for the benefit of another without an expectation of anything in return. You have a choice to love, or not to love for that matter, at any moment of the day.

- James asks two questions in verse 14. How would you answer each?

"So when Paul boldly imposes the only thing that counts on you and on me, He is making these two things - faith and love - conjoined twins. Inseparable. Each not viable without the other. And He is telling us the secret to living and being and growing in a way that God can move in our lives effectively. He's saying, You cannot peel apart your faith life and the rest of your life...

James, the brother of Jesus said it plainly: Faith without works is dead. What works? When you read him further and combine his teaching with others like Jesus and Paul, you have nowhere to go except this: The only thing that counts is faith, expressing itself through love...

It's the only thing that counts, and it's within your power to choose." -Pastor Brian Hughes

Pray:

Dear Jesus, help us to live our lives grounded in the love that You extended to us. Enable us to choose to live out our faith expressed through Love to those around us. Please help us to internalize our truths, allowing them to create a fire in our bones. In Jesus' name. Amen.