

JANUARY 31, 2016



# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JEREMIAH 1:4–5, 17–19

PSALM 71:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 15, 17

1 CORINTHIANS 12:31–13:13 OR 13:4–13

LUKE 4:21–30

## REFLECTION

Recently a group of college students took a poll of people's favorite Bible reading. By far, 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13 was at the top of the list. I think it was a favorite because it is all about love. Love is at the root of Jesus's message to us. Love is what God offers us and calls us to be. Being a Christian is all about love. If we go through the motions and do wonderful acts, but do not have love at the center of it all, we are missing the point. We can sit in the front pew of the church each week but if we don't live out the message of Christ's love and be that love when we leave then we are living a false life. This Scripture passage is a GPS for us. If we follow it we will find love in our own lives. I think we really want to be love in the world, yet we don't always embody love in our lives. At times it is hard to not lose our temper, or to not brood, or to not be rude. At times we may find ourselves getting jealous or impatient. At times we want it to be about us. It is then that we can remember this Scripture passage and the call to love. This will help get ourselves back on track. We can try to do better. If we mess up, we get up and try again. As we "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:31) and we continue to live a life full of love—even when it gets hard—then we are truly living out our baptismal call to be Christ's disciples in this world. It is a work in progress, but well worth the effort!



"YOUR LOVE  
NEVER FAILS"

**CHRIS MCCLARNEY**

[www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=l2Th2R8h0JI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2Th2R8h0JI)

## ACTION

Reread 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13. Read it again—out loud—but this time, replace the words "love" or "it" with your first name. Then think about how you can actually *be* that love this week. Try doing something this week that is all about love. Give without expecting something in return. Help your parents without making it all about you. Tell the truth instead of trying to cover up your actions with a lie. Find a way to *be love* to *others*.



## JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- How did it feel to read out loud the Scripture about love with your name in it?
- How does it make you think about your life differently?
- What is an area in your life that you can improve so that you are more of this love?