

## Love Story Cutting Out Pages

**“Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing...”**

**(1 Corinthians 13:4-6a ESV)**

### **WORD: God, what are You saying to me?**

God’s Word shows us what love is and is NOT. Love is not jealous. Love does not brag. It is not big-headed (“arrogant”) or bad-mannered (“rude”). Love doesn’t selfishly demand its own way. It is not grouchy (“irritable”). It does not hold grudges (“resentful”) or celebrate sin. Where have these “Love is NOTS” been in your story this week?

### **WHY: God, why does this Scripture matter?**

Knowing what God says love is and is NOT will help us not be tricked by fake, counterfeit love. Bankers study real dollar bills in order to recognize fake ones. It’s the same with love. Trying to love with what love is NOT doesn’t work any more than fake dollar bills at the store. Knowing what love really is helps us spot what is not real love. Let’s write these “Love is NOT” words on paper then take turns cutting them up and throwing away the pieces. This kind of love is as useless as a fake dollar bill!

### **WHAT? God, what else does Your Word say to me about this?**

1 Corinthians 13:7 says, **“Love bears all things,”** which means real love is strong under pressure. The picture is of something sealed so strongly that nothing can seep in, like a submarine underwater. Real love is strong enough to bear up against all the pressure to be envious, boastful, arrogant, selfish, rude and other things that love is NOT. How has your love story been strong against one of these this week?

### **WORSHIP: God, how do You want me to respond to this truth?**

As we ask God to search us for pages in our stories that do not belong, we must be still and listen to what He says. It’s never easy to hear when we have acted/reacted in ways that love is NOT. However, when we listen, God will tell us how He wants us to apologize or forgive. As we follow God’s guidance in love, our lives worship and glorify Him. Let’s choose to have this kind of story, full of what love really is, today!

### **Family Disciple Me Blessing**

Lord of Love, help us cut out these pages from our stories where we have not loved with Your true love. Help us recognize ways we have been deceived by fake love and replace it with the love of Jesus. We confess our need for You; we cannot do this alone. Give us the strength to “bear all things” so that our love is a reflection of You. In Your Precious and Holy Name, Amen!