Opening session by OL Leader (guest speaker or clergy) in main Zoom group:

20 minutes

**Opening Question:**

*(Leader should ask the group)*

How would you fill in this blank: “Love is --------.”

Have campers answer this question on paper or a notebook.

**Teaching**

Love is more than a feeling. Love is an action and it’s a choice. Something we live out in real relationships with real people. The more we practice love daily and in small ways, the more grace God gives us to love unconditionally, even when love is difficult or demands sacrifices from us. The deeper our love becomes, the more it looks like God’s love for us.

We are called to love God with all our mind, all of our soul, all of our strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. This means we also need to show love to ourselves, even the things we may not like about ourselves. By loving our neighbor, we are loving God. We serve others to be an example of Christ in the world and to bring love into their world. Because God is love, when we love someone we are bringing God to them. Serving our neighbor brings God into our lives as well. Often, we find that the people we are serving are also giving us love as well and that giving love becomes a mutual exchange of love.

**Activity**

Read the Passage from 1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient and kind;

love is not jealous or boastful;

it is not arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Ask campers to fill in the blank, using their own name. (Have campers remain on mute)

------------ is patient and kind;

------------ is not jealous or boastful;

----------- is not arrogant or rude.

----------- does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

----------- does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

------------ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Teaching 2**

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to not simply do nice things. We are called, as part of our vocation, to BE love. Each one of you was asked to say your name in place of the word “love” to demonstrate that we all are called to not just show patience but to BE patient, etc. If God, as we know, IS love, and we are made in His image, we should BE love as well.

**Wrap-up**

Provide the breakout questions to the entire group. Or provide the instructions to the breakout activity.

*Note: Campers and Staff are moved from main Zoom room to their Breakout rooms*

**Discussion Questions** (for breakout groups):

Present camper the following statements and ask them to give a thumbs up if they agree. Ask for a volunteer to explain why they love that thing.

Set 1:

I love [choose a pop-star].

I love [choose a music genre].

I love [choose a movie].

I love [choose a sport].

Set 2:

“Love is patient….”

“Love is kind….”

Set 3:

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you…” (Matthew 5:44)

“Love… does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth.” (1 Corinthians 13:6)

“A friend loves at all times, and kinsfolk are born to share adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17)

Additional Questions (if there is extra time)

* In your life, have you found that the deepest most generous love (agape) is difficult? What could make that so?
* Think about the love Christ or the Panagia has for you. How do you feel that love in your life?
* Think about the people who truly love you in your life (friends, family, teachers, coaches, etc.) Make a list.
* How does this love relate to the love we are shown by those in our life who truly care about us?

**Devotional (Cabin Talk):**

* How do you grow love?
* Think of a person you have a hard time loving. How can you grow love for them?
* What is one way you will try to love people, even when it may be difficult?
* Make a list of our enemies who you will pray for.