HOW'S YOUR LOVE LIFE?

The best-known passage in the Bible about love is 1 Corinthians 13—the "love chapter." The personal inventory below is taken from this passage. Get into groups of about 4. Turn to 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 and have someone read the verses out loud. Then, let one person read the first phrase. Go around the group and have everyone pick a number between 1 and 10. Have someone else read the next phrase, etc. until you've completed the inventory. Love is patient: I don't take out my frustrations on those I love. I am calm under pressure and careful with my tongue.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is kind: I go out of my way to say nice words, and do thoughtful things for others.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love does not envy: I am not envious of others' gifts and abilities or of what they have. Neither am I jealous with my time toward those who need me.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love does not boast: I don't consider my role any more important than those I love—or talk like "I know better."

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not proud: I don't think of myself as better than those I love; or better at sports ... or singing ... or handling money, etc.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not rude: I don't make cutting or crude remarks when I don't get my way—or become silent and withdrawn.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not self-seeking: I don't put myself first. I try to give those I love spiritual and emotional support.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love is not easily angered: I don't let little things bother me, especially with those I love. I have a muffler on my mouth.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love keeps no record of wrongs: I don't keep score of the number of times those I love have said something or done something that upset me, and I don't bring it up when we have conflict.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love does not delight in evil: There is a difference between acceptance and approval. I accept those I love, but I do not have to approve of everything they do.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love rejoices with the truth: With a compassionate spirit, I will say what needs to be said to someone, even if it might be difficult. I seek the truth in my own life and encourage others to do the same.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always protects: I am always there for those I love—even when they upset~me—seeking to comfort and care as Christ would.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always trusts: I believe in those I love and I believe in God. And I am willing to let God do the shaping and molding.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always hopes: I am good at expecting the best and thinking the best about those I love. I always give those I love the benefit of the doubt.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

Love always perseveres: I am committed to those I love and I am prepared to see that commitment through to the end.

FAILURE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 SUCCESS

