

# The Most Excellent Way

A Small Group Devotional

## Noisy

Week 2

Read 1 Corinthians 13

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:1, NIV

It can be easy for us to hide our true selves—our intentions and motivations—behind our words claiming to be someone we are not, to be better than we are, or more innocent. We can use all the right words to say horrible and hurtful things. To deceive and to manipulate. We give our fear, our cruelty, our hatred, plausible deniability by framing our words in ways to deflect responsibility and accountability onto those we fear, harm, and/or hate.

What are some ways that our words cause harm or division within the church? Within our community?

How can our words be destructive and harmful even if we don't use naughty words or raise our voice?

What roles have fear, anger, and hatred played in the loveless messages you may have communicated to others? How about from or by our church?

What might our church look like if we loved well even if we got the words wrong sometimes?