

SIGMA THETA EPSILON



National Program Book
2007-2008 School Year
“Made For Love”

O people, the Lord has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.

--Micah 6:8

Introduction of Theme

This year, I want our focus to be on love. Our programming theme of “Made For Love” will, hopefully, be a driving force for us throughout the year, causing us to center more fully on God, and to devote ourselves more fully to the tasks he sets before us. I honestly believe that God has created us for love and to love. To love him, to love others. And to love doing it.

The key scripture verse for this year is Micah 6:8. “O People, the LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humble with your God.” This might seem a bit out of place until you consider the meaning behind it. When the prophet is telling us that God wants us to love mercy, he’s basically saying we are to love loving others. We aren’t to love because it’s a commandment, or give because we feel obligated. We should love out of a deep passionate desire to love. Love for love sake. Unconditional love. The model given to us by our Savior.

And so I want to challenge all of our Brothers. This year: Love more. Love better. Be a creature for our King that was made for love.

God Bless you all. And may you find and share His perfect love each day.

Tyler Betts
National Vice President

Explanation of Program Book

Within the pages of this book, I hope you find inspiration to seek and represent our God in the spirit of the program theme “Made For Love”.

I have prepared four main types of things you will find in this book that will hopefully help you explore the program theme to its greatest possibilities. These have been prepared under the guidance of my closest friends and spiritual advisors and are designed to be a tool to use to experience and share Christ on deeper levels.

The first tool you will come across in this book are suggested activities for the Brotherhood to participate in. The second tool is “Calls to Brotherhood”, which will be useful in focusing the Brotherhood. The third tool is list of discussion topics, which will hopefully deepen your understanding of your self, your faith, and your world, especially in regards to the program theme. The final tool is a “suggested playlist”, which I hope will lead to enjoyment of the theme, and possibly also good discussion and understanding, as well as bonding and fellowship.

I honestly hope and pray that the contents of this book are useful to you in implementing the program theme. Beyond that, I hope and pray that this book is useful in advancing the Kingdom of Christ, and deepening your relationship with and understanding of Him.

All I ask for when you consider the tools found in this book are a willing spirit, and an open mind to consider the way God can use you, the Fraternity, and these tools for His glory.

Suggested Activities

On the following pages, you will find sixteen activities centered on the program theme “Made For Love”. Some of these will be a great fit for your chapter. Some of these will be a challenge for your chapter to execute. Others might not be right for your chapter to attempt.

It is not expected that every chapter will execute all sixteen activities. It is not expected that any chapter will execute all sixteen activities. It is expected that each chapter will review the activities and find the activities that will benefit them, their community, and those they can impact through them and execute those activities. It is also desired that the chapters will choose activities that will challenge them, as we often find the greatest reward and growth through struggles and challenges.

Nothing in these activities is set in stone. If modifications need to be made, that is more than fine. These activities serve as guidelines. The only request is that if modifications are made, the general intent remain, and the focus remain on doing an activity highlighting the program theme “Made For Love”.

Each activity contains information on approximately how long it will take to plan the activity’s details, how long it will take to execute the plan, and other important details that will help each chapter to determine the activities that best fit that chapter.

Remember, when incorporating this year’s theme that our theme verse for the year is Micah 6:8, which reminds us that we are to “love loving others”. Let this ring true in the minds of our Brothers as they take part in these activities. We do not love, and we do not do these activities, because we are forced to, or because we want recognition. We love, and we do these activities, to represent our Lord, and because we, like He, love loving others.

Sheep and Goats Week

Purpose: This activity is designed to get the Brotherhood to reach out in love to those whom it normally would not reach out to with love.

Planning Time: It will take approximately 15 minutes to plan this activity.

Execution Time: It will take approximately 8 days to execute this activity.

Presiding Officers: It is suggested the President, Chaplain, or Service Chairman preside over this activity.

Implementation: At a Brotherhood meeting, the presiding officer shall say to the Brotherhood “I declare this sheep and goat week”. He will then read Matthew 25, verses 31-46.

The presiding officer will then instruct the Brotherhood that they are to be sheep over the next week. They are to seek out some of the “least of these”, and show them an act of love. They are to record, on paper, where they showed one of the “least of these” an act of love, what the act of love was, and when it was.

At the following Brotherhood meeting, the Steward shall greet each Brother as he enters. The Brothers shall hand their record of loving one of the “least of these” to the Steward, who will then seat them on the right side of the room. If a Brother does not have the record of his act of love, or did not perform his act of love that week, he shall be seated on the left side of the room.

Optional: The presiding officer may prepare a prize (food, drink, etc) for the Brothers who are sheep (seated on the right side) and/or prepare a punishment for the Brothers who are goats (seated on the left side).

Triple Love Service

Purpose: This activity is designed to get the Brotherhood to reach out in love three times to the same person/group/place in three different, but connected, ways.

Planning Time: It will take approximately 3 hours to plan this activity.

Execution Time: It will take approximately 3 days to execute this activity (3 different one day periods).

Presiding Officers: It is suggested the President or Service Chair preside over this activity. It is also recommended that a (small) group be formed to oversee the planning process along side the presiding officer.

Implementation: C.S. Lewis tells us that in our service, we can exhibit three types of love. There is “need-love”, where we meet someone’s need through our actions. This is exhibited, for example, when we give water to someone who is thirsty. There is also “unexpected love”, where we show our love through an unexpected action. This is exhibited, for example, when we send flowers to someone “just because”. Finally, there is “abundant love”, where we meet someone’s needs, and then exceed the need and cross into wants, as well. This is exhibited, for example, when someone is thirsty, and we give them the best tasting beverage we have available to us.

The presiding officer shall work (possibly with a committee) to select a recipient of the triple love service. A date will be set for three Brotherhood service projects with the recipient. The first will be spent serving the recipient only through “need-love”. The second will be spent serving the recipient only through “unexpected love”, and the third only through “abundant love”.

Suggested Implementations:

- A widow in the community: Need-love may be doing a household chore. Unexpected love may be bringing the widow her favorite food. Abundant love may be mowing the lawn, and planting in a garden around the house.
- A summer camp: Need-love may be maintenance work to ready the camp. Need love may be the creation of a gift for the staff. Abundant love may be _____

Agape Writings: Alumni

Purpose: To show love to our alumni Brothers without any expectation of return.

Planning Time: Less than 15 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately one hour.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President or Alumni Chair.

Implementation: A list of chapter alumni, and their mailing address, should be brought to the activity. Participating members of the fraternity should choose alumni from the list, preferably ones they do not know.

Each participating member is to write a letter to their selected alumni. The letters are to proclaim the love they have for the actions of the alumni in creating the fraternity, and shaping it into what it is today. The letters are not to solicit a response, an action, money or any other gain from the alumni, but rather just to express honest appreciation for what has been done.

Optional: This activity may be repeated 2-4 times per academic period, especially with chapters with a large number of alumni.

This activity may be done as a pledge project, as well.

Agape Writings: Pledges

Purpose: To show love to those we will soon call "Brother" without any expectation of return.

Planning Time: Less than 15 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately one hour.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President or Pledgemaster

Implementation: A list of current pledges, and their campus addresses, should be brought to the activity. Participating members of the fraternity should choose pledges from the list, preferably ones they do not know.

Each participating member is to write a letter to their selected pledge. The letters are to proclaim the love they have for the pledge that they look forward to sharing with them on a fraternity level, and how they believe they can shape the future of the world, the church, and the fraternity.

Optional: Have every Brother participate, and send one letter to each pledge. Choose a different pledge to send letters to each week.

Agape Writings: Actives

Purpose: To show love to our those who are most closely our fellow workers with God.

Planning Time: Less than 25 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately one hour.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President or Chaplain.

Implementation: Place the name of each Brother in a hat, and have every active Brother draw a name from the hat. That Brother is then to write a letter to the Brother whose name he has chosen, and tell him of the love he has for him, the love he sees in him, and to remind him of anecdotes showing the Love of Christ he has displayed.

Optional: This activity may be repeated as often as the Brotherhood needs reminded of the love they have for each other: Perhaps even weekly.

Agape Writings: Non-Brothers

Purpose: To show love to our members of our immediate community who are not official members of Sigma Theta Epsilon.

Planning Time: Less than 30 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately one hour.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President or Chaplain

Implementation: The Brotherhood (or planning committee) should brainstorm and determine members of the surrounding community (churches, faculty, staff, other students) who impact their lives, but are not official members of the fraternity. The Brothers should then write letters to these selected individuals, telling them of the love the Brotherhood has for them, the love the Brotherhood sees in them, and to remind them of anecdotes showing the Love of Christ they has displayed. The letters should include no attempts to solicit any return from the recipients.

Optional: This activity may also be implemented towards those who do not positively impact the Brotherhood. Remember, Christ taught us to pray for those who persecute us, too.

Agape Writings: Another Campus Organization

Purpose: To show love to another organization on our campus, and to promote unity.

Planning Time: Less than 30 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately one hour.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President, Service Chair, or Chaplain

Implementation: The Brotherhood (or planning committee) should brainstorm and determine campus organizations that would benefit from receiving letters of love and encouragement. Upon selecting the organization(s), the Brotherhood, or committee, should compose a letter to the organization encouraging them through words of love, and stories of how that organization is impacting the campus through their actions of love. The letters should include no attempts to solicit any return from the recipients.

Optional: The Brotherhood may also opt to write letters individually to members of the organization. The Brotherhood may find it best to write letters immediately before an organization embarks on a large scale activity, as a means of encouraging them. This activity may also be implemented towards those who do not positively impact the Brotherhood. Remember, Christ taught us to pray for those who persecute us, too.

Loving Introductions

Purpose: To show spontaneous love to the other members of our chapter.

Planning Time: Less than 5 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately 10 minutes.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President or Secretary

Implementation: The presiding officer should instruct the Brotherhood at the beginning of a Brotherhood business meeting that roll will not be called in a traditional manner. Instead, the Brothers will form a circle. When a Brother's name is called, if they are present, the Brother immediately to their right shall indicate their presence by stating "<Brothers name> is here, and I love him because ...", and fill in a reason, that would be (at least somewhat) specific to that Brother.

Optional: The choice of Brother can be to the left, or any way the presiding officer desires, as long as every Brother present gets to be told why they are loved, and gets to tell another Brother why they love them. This can also be done at pledge meetings, officer meetings, and alumni events.

Movie Night and Discussion

Purpose: To find great examples of love in modern society, and to discuss how that impacts us and motivates us.

Planning Time: 10-45 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately three to four hours.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be any willing Brother.

Implementation: The Brotherhood (or planning committee) should brainstorm and determine a movie that they feel has an overarching theme of love. They should then determine a time for the Brotherhood to watch the movie together. The committee, or the presiding officer, should prepare questions and prompts for discussion about the love seen in the movie, and how it might impact and motivate us in our lives. Underlying themes and symbolism should be given great attention.

Optional: The Brotherhood may wish to find four different movies, and have one for each of the types of love (see discussion topics section of this Program Book for more details), and then have a fifth discussion night to talk about the four different themes, and compare and contrast all things love in the movies. This activity also may make a good Rush activity.

This activity may also be done with other types of media. Books are an excellent source, as well as songs, albums, and television shows.

Rewrite 1 Corinthians 13 in modern day language

Purpose: To provide a better understanding of ourselves, our faith, and our world.

Planning Time: Less than 15 minutes.

Execution Time: Approximately one hour.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be either the President or Chaplain.

Implementation: The presiding officer should bring printed off copies of 1 Corinthians 13 (aka the “Love Chapter”) to the activity, either one for each Brother, or one for each group that will be working together. The groups/individuals should then work on "translating" the chapter to modern English. Some specific questions we might want to consider are:

What are today's "tongues"?

What is a “resounding gong” or a “clanging cymbal” today?

Each individual or group should then read their revised version, and allow for questions and discussion on the changes made. The questions and discussion should be of an encouraging nature, provoking us to grow and understand how we perceive each other, our modern world, and the way we are to take God's love into that world.

Note: It is acceptable for a person/group to conclude they need not change any language, provided they can back-up that point of view. The point of the activity, however, is not to debate the infallibility of the Bible, the timelessness of the Bible, or the qualities of one translation over another, and the presiding officer should be careful to not allow it to turn into such.

Optional: This activity may be repeated with other loving chapters of the Bible. 1 John 4 and Ephesians 5 are two such examples.

Be a Good Neighbor

Purpose: To extend the love of God to our neighbors, through prayer and action.

Planning Time: 10-45 minutes. Could be greater depending on the depth of chosen activity.

Execution Time: Will vary, depending on the chosen activity.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be the President, Service Chair, or Steward.

Implementation: The Brotherhood, or a small committee, will consider the question Jesus posed in Luke chapter ten "Who is my neighbor"?

The Pharisees of Jesus' time had a very narrow view on who exactly their neighbor was: Jews. Jesus, as he presented the story commonly known as "The Good Samaritan Story" gave us a broader view of who our neighbor might be, and what it might look like to be a good neighbor. Hence, the Brotherhood should consider who they will call a neighbor, and how they might help them.

For some chapters, this answer might be obvious: if you have a chapter house, you have physical neighbors in a commonly understood sense. For other chapters, the answer might be less obvious. For all chapters, the answer might come as a number of different types of people. Whatever the case, the Brotherhood should see how they can show love, through action, from a position of strength, to meet needs of the neighbor(s) they identify.

A contact person should then contact the identified neighbor(s), and offer their acts of love in the ways the chapter has decided, and work alongside their selected neighbor(s) to accomplish the set task(s).

Optional: Work with local groups (charities, churches, etc) to put a contact name for your chapter in the community and allow any of your neighbors to contact you with specific requests.

Say The Words

Purpose: To tell as many people as possible of the love of God.

Planning Time: 10-20 minutes.

Execution Time: Will vary, depending on the chosen time frame.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be the President or Chaplain.

Implementation: Nikki Cruz, an evangelist and former gang leader, says his life was changed completely by three words: Jesus loves you.

In a world of flash and style, interactive websites, HDTV, YouTube, and so many other impactfull media outlets, it is sometimes easy to forget the power of words. But the power of what we say, and how we represent ourselves, our Brotherhood, and our God through our words cannot be overstated.

In this activity, the Brotherhood will have a specified period of time wherein there will be a challenge to see which Brother can tell others verbally about the love of God the most. The specified period of time could be anywhere from one day, to one month, to one academic period, or anything in between.

The challenge should not take priority over the actual words being said. The purpose of this activity is not to meet and greet a great number of people, but rather it is to express the love of God as we know it and we have experienced it to people in an honest fashion.

Optional: A prize may be given to the Brother with the highest number of successes. A select phrase to use can be selected as the phrase to use.

Letters to our Father

Purpose: To attempt to put into words the love we have for our God.

Planning Time: 15-30 minutes.

Execution Time: 30-60 minutes.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be the Chaplain

Implementation: We all have probably written a love letter at some point in time in our lives. We can all probably think back to a special lady in high school who caught our eye and caused us to write something, an embarrassing "check yes or no" letter in middle school, or some other such memory implanted in our minds.

Consider now, attempting to put into words, the feelings we have for our God. A love much greater and much different than what we experienced to cause us to write letters seeking human affection will need a letter much different.

The idea here is to be creative, and honest, and to come up with something unique to say to God about Him, His love, the relationship you have with Him, and so much more. Depending on the implementation, these letters may be shared publicly with the Brotherhood, or be kept for private use only, so the content of letters might vary based upon that.

Optional: Often, we can separate the three "personas" of God into Creator (Father), Redeemer (Son), and Sustainer (Holy Spirit). As such, you might want to entertain repeating this activity to specifically address the feelings you have for each of these "personas". Also, letters of admiration to those listed in Hebrews Chapter 11, as well as other great pillars of faith, could be a good extensions and/or repetition of this activity.

(Be) The Power of Love

Purpose: To aide others who are spreading the love of God by providing them manpower.

Planning Time: 1 hour to several weeks.

Execution Time: Will depend on the activity.

Presiding Officers: Suggested to be the President, Vice President, or Service Chair.

Implementation: The power of love is more than a catchy tune. It's something that Sigma Theta Epsilon can be.

In every community, there are churches, charities, organizations, groups, and individuals with great plans for ways to show and spread the love of God. They depth of their vision is matched only by the void of manpower available to them to complete the tasks they dream up.

This is where Sigma Theta Epsilon comes in. We can make contact with the groups, churches, and people that are dreaming of big ways to spread God's love. We can make an impact by just saying "let us help", "use us", "put us to work", or "let us be the power of love".

We can make a difference without needing to worry about details, but just by being obedient to those that already have a call from God in their heart. We can be willing flesh, to those with a strong spirit.

Optional: In many communities, there are standing or on-going activities that can use volunteer power. Soup kitchens, homeless shelters, small churches, Chrysalis and Emmaus weekends, and many other opportunities. Allowing these communities to have a pipeline for work can be a wonderful blessing for them. Additionally, larger service projects of this type can be planned for school breaks.

Innovation Love Activity

Purpose: To find a new and creative way to show the love of God.

Planning Time: Will vary.

Execution Time: Will vary.

Presiding Officers: Any Brother ambitious enough.

Implementation: The Brotherhood, a committee, or a single Brother will come up with a new idea for an activity to exhibit a life of love. The Brotherhood should then execute the activity, and report it for consideration for the innovation award using the online reporting tools.

Optional: Challenge the Brothers to see how many activities you can come up with and execute.

Calls to Brotherhood

Many churches have a tradition during worship services to have a “Call to Worship”, an invocation for the congregation to hear, say, or participate in an invitation to begin worship formally, to allow their minds, hearts, souls, and bodies to join in a collective effort to worship God, generally focused on the theme for teaching in the sermon at the worship service.

Similarly, I believe that Sigma Theta Epsilon can benefit from focusing our minds, hearts, souls, and bodies to join in a collective effort to be a united Brotherhood, and in a united effort to be “made for love” as the national theme prompts.

There are thirty “Calls to Brotherhood” included in this section. This will allow any chapter that wishes to use one each week throughout an entire year without repeating. Of course, some chapters may wish to reserve these for special Brotherhoods, or use them at officer meetings instead of or in addition to at Brotherhood. The implementation is up to the individual chapters ...

Some “Calls to Brotherhood” are to be read in unison. For these, the Brotherhood should recite the call all at the same time. Others are to be read by a single leader. For these, the Brotherhood should sit or stand in silence and listen to the leader. Others ask for call and response. For these, the Brotherhood should say the Brotherhood parts in unison, and sit or stand in silence as the leader reads his parts. The leader part should be read by the President or Chaplain, or their designee.

The Beatitudes

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit

Brotherhood: Teach us to love those to whom the Kingdom of Heaven belongs

L: Blessed are those who mourn

B: Teach us to love those who need comfort

L: Blessed are the meek

B: Teach us to love those who will inherit the earth

L: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

B: Teach us to love those who will be filled

L: Blessed are the merciful

B: Teach us to love those who will be shown mercy

L: Blessed are the pure of heart

B: Teach us to love those who will see God

L: Blessed are the peacemakers

B: Teach us to love those who are called sons of God

L: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness

B: Teach us to love all

God of our Fathers

Leader: God of our the Fathers of our Faith, teach us to love in your perfect love

Brotherhood: All that you do is perfect, and we wish to love like you

L: Teach us the love that overcame the fears of Moses

B: Let our love encourage others around us

L: Teach us the love that allowed David to lead

B: Let our love shine paths for those we encounter

L: Teach us the love that granted Solomon his wisdom

B: Let our love be the source of all our wisdom

L: Teach us the love that gave boldness to Simon, and changed him to Peter

B: Let our love be bold and strong

L: Teach us the love that changed the life of Paul

B: Let our love change the lives of those around us

Unworthy of His Love

Brotherhood: We are a sinful Brotherhood. We do not keep the commands of our God. We do not love fully. Our pride blinds us from the needs of those around us, and from the anger in our own hearts. We do not love as fully as we should. It takes a divine God to inspire us in our love. We are unworthy of that God, and unworthy of that love. We ask, pray, beg, and plead that you bestow upon us this divine love that is available only through the Holy Spirit.

God of All Loves

Brotherhood: The God of all loves is the God we serve. He who is the master of Agape, the only one able to perfectly deliver the most perfect of loves. He who gives us the most intimate of Philia, who knows us in a Brotherly way closer than we even know ourselves. The God of storge, who loves us as the Father who watches over us, loving us through grace and discipline. And the God of Eros, who created such a love so as to teach us the ways of love. Lord, we pray, that you teach us to love as you do, in all the ways you do.

God of Philia

Leader: Our God is also our Brother.

Brotherhood: He is the God of Philia.

L: He walks beside us.

B: He is the God who knows Brotherly love.

L: He knows the struggles of life.

B: He is the God who understands our troubles

L: He is a part of our Brotherhood.

B: He is the God who knows the spirit of Philoi.

L: Our God is also our Brother.

B: He is the God of Philia

God of Agape

Leader: Listen, my Brothers. Our God is a God of love. We cannot see his face, but we know He loves us. We cannot see his body, but we can feel the warmth of His smile falling upon us. We can do nothing to earn and deserve His love, but he will continue to give it to us. He is perfect, just as is His love. He lifts us from low places, and sends us love offerings each day. He gives to us out of love and does not expect a reward back from us. He is the God of Agape.

God of Eros

Brotherhood: Oh God our God, you have created all loves. The love we know best is Eros, the love between a man and a woman. We see it all around us, and we are given mixed signals about what it means. But we know and trust that you, our God, is the God of Eros. We trust in you, and you alone, for an understanding of this love you have created, that we may seek and find it, and give glory to you through it. Guide us in our quest for Eros, and let us follow your path to perfect Eros love, oh God of Eros.

God of Storge

Brotherhood: Our Father, who is in Heaven, you are a being composed of and radiating love. We claim your Storge love as our own. We claim that love that comes to us as your children, and we offer back the obedience and love that comes from being your children. Guide us in your Storge love, that we may more clearly find your will, and share this love with others. You are the God of Storge.

The Trinity of Love

Leader: Hear my Brothers, our God loves us.

Brotherhood: Thanks be to God for his love.

L: Our Father loves us.

B: Thanks be to God for his love.

L: In His love, he created us.

B: Thanks be to God for his love.

L: Our Lord Jesus loves us.

B: Thanks be to God for his love.

L: In His love, he redeemed us through His blood.

B: Thanks be to God for his love.

L: The Holy spirit loves us.

B: Thanks be to God for his love.

L: Through love, He sustains us.

B: Thanks be to God for his love.

The Father of Love

Brotherhood: Oh Lord our God, our Father in heaven, hear us as we proclaim our love for you. Our love and admiration for creating us in your image. Our love and thankfulness for sending your only Son to die a painful death on the cross for our sins. Our love and gratitude for comforting us and empowering us through your Spirit. Praise be to you, Oh God, for you have created love, and you show it to us each day. You are the Father of love.

The Spirit of Love

Leader: Holy Spirit, come and fill us with love.

Brotherhood: Holy Spirit, let us feel your presence.

L: Let us be inspired to love in your perfect example.

B: Let us be inspired to love all we see and interact with.

L: Help us to share your perfect love.

B: Help us to share you in love.

For you are the Spirit of Love, and we ask for your guidance.

The Redeemer of Love

Brotherhood: By your Blood, you redeemed us in Love. By your words, you taught us in love. By your example, you guided us in love. By your resurrection, you gave us hope in love. By your ascension, you empowered us in love. By your life, you gave us love. You are Jesus. You are our Redeemer. You are the Redeemer who came, lived, left and will return. All, in the name of love.

Love from the Cross

Leader: From the Cross, Love calls out to us. From the Cross, Love has a frozen moment in time. From the Cross, Love has captured us. From the Cross, we have been given the perfect example of Love. From the Cross, sacrifice has shown us the true meaning of Love. Many see pain on the cross, we see Love. Perfect Love from our God and our Savior. Love from the Cross.

Love from Dust

Brotherhood: From the dust we were created. In your image, to be like you, and to love like you. It was in love and through love that you created us. It was your desire for love that caused you to stir the dust to create us. And we desire to love you back. To love you with every bit of our bodies, that are made from dust. To love you, until we return to dust. And then from our dust, our love for you and our love for us shall arise again.

Love from the Sky

Leader: We look to the sky.

Brotherhood: We see an example of your love.

L: A new dawn, and a new day.

B: An example of the love you have for us.

L: Rain falls from heaven, to give life to the earth.

B: We see your love falling down upon us.

L: The clouds attempt to cover the sky

B: Nothing can cover your love.

L: We look to the sky.

B: Everywhere we look, we see your love.

A Love That is Greater

Leader: We look around and we see pain.

Brotherhood: We desire something greater.

L: We see suffering and strife.

B: More for ourselves, our faith, and our world.

L: We see questions without answers.

B: More than just clichés.

L: We see a world in need.

B: More than we have to offer

L: We see a world in need of love

B: A love that is greater than any problem

L: We see people who need you.

B: Help us guide them to your love.

Love Lifted Me

Leader: I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Brotherhood: Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me!

L: All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling
In His blessed presence live, ever His praises sing,
Love so mighty and so true, merits my soul's best songs,
Faithful, loving service too, to Him belongs.

B: Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me!

L: Souls in danger look above, Jesus completely saves,
He will lift you by His love, out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea, billows His will obey,
He your Savior wants to be, be saved today.

B: Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help
Love lifted me!

The Love of God

Brotherhood: The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Love Found a Way

Leader: Wonderful love that rescued me, sunk deep in sin,
Guilty and vile as I could be—no hope within;
When every ray of light had fled, O glorious day!
Raising my soul from out the dead, love found a way.

Brotherhood: Love found a way, to redeem my soul,
Love found a way, that could make me whole.
Love sent my Lord to the cross of shame,
Love found a way, O praise His holy Name!

L: Love brought my Savior here to die on Calvary,
For such a sinful wretch as I, how can it be?
Love bridged the gulf 'twixt me and Heav'n, taught me to pray,
I am redeemed, set free, forgiv'n, love found a way.

B: Love found a way, to redeem my soul,
Love found a way, that could make me whole.
Love sent my Lord to the cross of shame,
Love found a way, O praise His holy Name!

L: Love opened wide the gates of light to Heav'n's domain,
Where in eternal power and might Jesus shall reign.
Love lifted me from depths of woe to endless day,
There was no help in earth below; love found a way.

B: Love found a way, to redeem my soul,
Love found a way, that could make me whole.
Love sent my Lord to the cross of shame,
Love found a way, O praise His holy Name!

Expansive Love

Leader: Who is like you, Oh God?

Brotherhood: Heaven is opened up, wide enough for us to walk right in.

L: We draw close Lord.

B: We find that you were here, waiting for us.

L: We draw close Lord.

B: We find your wide expansive love

L: We draw close Lord.

B: We find your love running over us

L: We draw close Lord.

B: We find you asking us to come closer

L: We draw close Lord.

B: We find your wide expansive love

A Craving

Leader: There is a hunger within us. A desire for more than we have. A desire to do more, to be more, to earn more, to have more. Lord, we offer this empty spot to you. We ask that you fill it to overflowing with your spirit and your love. We ask that as the hunger returns, you replace what we have hungered for with a craving for more love. Lord, inspire us to love more and to serve more. Entice us to always crave more of your love.

Indestructible Love

Brotherhood: Your Love is all around us, oh Lord.

Your love is indestructible, oh Lord

Sometimes it's hard to find a reason to love,

Sometimes we forget the reason you gave us to love,

But we always remember

Your love is all around us, oh Lord,

Your love is indestructible, oh Lord.

What Do We want?

Leader: Brothers, are we tempted by the riches of the earth?

Brotherhood: No, they are a fading glory.

L: Do we desire to rule a glorious kingdom?

B: No, we do not desire to see ourselves lifted high.

L: Do we long for approval from man?

B: No, we seek the blessings of a higher calling.

L: Do we strive for the pleasures of the flesh?

B: No, we want to sanctify ourselves.

L: Brothers, what do we want?

B: To love our God, to be loved by Him, and to take His love to others.

In the Name of Love (Matthew 10)

Leader: Why do we feed those who are hungry?

Brotherhood: We do it in the name of love.

L: Why do we give something to drink to those who are thirsty?

B: We do it in the name of love.

L: Why do we invite strangers into our homes?

B: We do it in the name of love.

L: Why do we give clothing to the naked?

B: We do it in the name of love.

L: Why do we give care to the sick?

B: We do it in the name of love.

L: Why do we visit those who are in prison?

B: We do it in the name of love.

What Does the Lord Require (Micah 6:8)

Brotherhood: What does the Lord require of us?

Leader: He has already shown us.

B: What does the Lord require of us?

L: To act justly

B: What does the Lord require of us?

L: To walk humbly with your God

B: What does the Lord require of us?

L: To love mercy

B: We will go forward and love loving others

John 3:16

Leader: For God so loved the world.

Brotherhood: That he gave His only begotten son.

L: For God so loved the world.

Brotherhood: That whoever would believe in Him.

L: For God so loved the world.

Brotherhood: Would not perish

L: For God so loved the world.

Brotherhood: But have everlasting life.

L: For God so loved the world.

Brotherhood: For God so loved the world.

Your Love Will Guide Us

Brotherhood: Oh Lord, we often do not know what we are looking for. We live in a world with Google maps, GPS, and many other technical advancements. Yet, it is so easy to lose our way. The path you have set out is straight and narrow. We cannot lean on our own understanding. Our human thoughts and our human ways will fail us. You are our only hope. Only in you can we find our ways. Only by trusting in you. You will guide us in your love. You will guide us by your Spirit. We will seek you, and we will find. Your love will guide us.

Faith, Hope and Love

Leader: And in the end of time, what will remain?

Brotherhood: Faith will remain. That belief and trust in God.

L: And in the end of time, what will remain?

B: Hope will remain. That knowledge that God is all we need.

L: And in the end of time, what will remain?

B: Love will remain. That supernatural essence that gives reason to our lives.

L: And what is the greatest of these?

B: The greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

Brotherhood: If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Showing the Face of God (1 John 4:12)

Leader: No one has ever seen God.

Brotherhood: How will others come to know Him?

L: Through us.

B: How will this happen?

L: When we love one another, God is made complete.

B: We must always show love, so that God can be made complete

L: God lives in us, and His love is made complete in us.

B: God is love, and we must take him into this dark world.

Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.

Brotherhood: His love shall always sustain me.

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters.

B: His love guides me and keeps me safe.

L: He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness, for His name's Sake.

B: His love directs me in all that I do

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

B: Nothing can prevail against the power of your love.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.

B: Your love has made me victorious over all challenges.

L: Surely, goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life.

B: And I will dwell in the House of the Lord Forever.

Love Came to Earth

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Brotherhood: The words of Mary when Love began to come to earth

L: It was as if the child in my womb leaped for joy.

B: The words of Elizabeth, as the way for Love was prepared.

L: Glory! Glory in the Highest!

B: The words of Angels, as Love came to earth.

L: Running along the hillside, leaving their work behind.

B: The reaction of shepherds as they came to welcome love to earth.

L: Sharing with all the people that we can.

B: Our reaction, because Love came to earth.

Discussion Topics

When I say the following words, I believe we can all go to a very similar place. Those words are “To provide a background for understanding ourselves, our faith, and our world”. I’m certain that as you read that, the words were at least familiar to you. This is one of the purposes of Sigma Theta Epsilon. It is also a purpose that I challenged myself to incorporate into the program book.

I come from a faith background that is far from typical. It’s not what you find in an average protestant church, nor is it what you find in a catholic church. It’s what I, and some others, like to call post-protestant. I go to church on Sunday evenings, and I sit on a couch or at a high-top round table, and I drink coffee. I listen to a band play, and I have a good time with members of my community. All of these are wonderful parts of my church, but they are not the thing I love most about my church.

What I love most about my church is a (mostly) unspoken doctrine that “all of us is smarter than any one of us”. Because of this, we don’t get sermons or lessons. Our pastor walks us through the text, and then we discuss it, so that we can all offer our insights and experiences. All of us come together and teach the community. It’s a beautiful example of the body of Christ working to advance understanding in and of the Kingdom.

I want my Brothers to experience this as well. Thus, I’ve prepared discussion topics for the Brotherhood to discuss. Hopefully, you can find use of this. Hopefully, deep, honest discussions will come of these topics, and you will better understand yourself, your faith, your Brothers, and the world around you. There are thirty topics in total, enough for one each week during an entire school year, though there is no requirement to use them in that manner. Use them, and be used by them, in the manner that will most benefit your local Brotherhood. And remember that every Brother has a story to tell, and a little to contribute to all of us. And that will make each of us smarter and draw each of us closer to God.

1. Discussion on the Four Loves

Background: C.S. Lewis wrote a book entitled "*The Four Loves*". In it, he goes through the four major types of love (also the four types of love we see in the Greek translation of Scripture). These loves are Storge (affection love, the love between parent and child), philia (Brotherly love, associated with friendship), Eros (romantic love, associated with a husband and wife), and Agape (unconditional love, given with no expectation of return).

Questions to Consider: Which loves do we individually and corporately (as a chapter) experience daily, weekly, monthly, etc? Which loves do we individually and corporately give? How can we improve in finding balance? What does this cause us to do?

2. Specific Discussion on Agape Love

Background: Agape love is unconditional love. It is given without any expectation of return. It is the love we see in God, and the sacrifices and blessings he gives to us. Some say that it is a love that only God can truly give, because He is perfect, Agape is perfect love, and we are imperfect beings. Others claim that finding a way to give Agape is the true goal of all mankind.

Questions to Consider: How have we seen Agape love in our lives coming from God? Have we ever received Agape love from other humans? Have we ever given Agape love to God? Have we ever given Agape love to others? How can our chapter show Agape? How can we individually show Agape? What does this cause us to do?

3. Specific Discussion on Storge Love

Background: Storge love is affectionate love. It is the love seen between parent and child. It is often seen as the most natural of all loves, expressed in beings other than humans without any prompting. Yet, it is absent in the life of some people.

Questions to Consider: Who do we give Storge love to, since it is clearly not restricted to the natural parent/child relationship? How can we restore someone who has not experience the natural Storge love? Who should Sigma Theta Epsilon be giving Storge love to corporately? What does this cause us to do?

4. Specific Discussion on Philia Love

Background: Philia love should be the one Brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon are most familiar with. It is Brotherly love. Love given to a friend, who in turn returns the Philia love. It is nearly impossible to give Philia love without receiving it in return. Yet, there are some who seek to receive Philia love, yet do not seek anyone to give Philia love to.

Questions to Consider: How freely does Philia love flow at your Brotherhood? How can you improve this? Is there always room for improvement? Who do we seek individually and corporately seek Philia love from, without seeking to give Philia love to? What does this cause us to do?

5. Specific Discussion on Eros Love

Background: Eros love is the love most commonly described in American Society. It is the love we see in movies and on television. The love between a man and a woman, often hunted at the expense of all else. It is the goal of almost all Americans, rather it is expressed or not.

Questions to consider: Why is so much weight given to Eros love? Is this the most important love? Why/Why not? If not, which one is? Why do so many people sacrifice other loves to try to find Eros love? Have we done this? What does this cause us to do?

6. John 21: 15-23 Discussion 1

Background: After Peter's denial on the night He was betrayed, Jesus approached Peter to "reinststate him". He three times asks him if he loves him, and Peter seems to get frustrated, but the frustration is only apparent in the limited point of view English gives. In the original text, you can see the difference in loves. Originally, Jesus asks Peter if he loves him with Agape love, that is unconditionally. Peter replies that he loves him with Philia love, that is in friendship and brotherly love. But, in the end, Jesus asks Peter if he loves him with Philia love, and Peter responds that he loves him with Agape love, leaving us even more confused.

Questions to consider: What is the difference between giving someone Agape love and giving someone Philia love? What are the tangible differences? Are there groups and people that we should be giving Philia love to, but we are trying to give them Agape love? Are there groups and people that we should be giving Agape love to but we are trying to give them Philia love? What does this cause us to do?

7. John 21: 15-23 Discussion 2

Background: Jesus and Peter seem to have a disagreement about the type of love. In the early questions, Jesus is asking Peter if he loves him unconditionally, with Agape love. Peter keeps responding that Jesus knows he loves him with brotherly love, with Philia love. There seems to be something lost in the translation here, and many scholars have many different theories on the reasons behind this.

Questions to Consider: Is it possible to really love with Agape, the way that God loves? If so, how do we get there? If not, why would Jesus ask Peter to do this? Is it because we should always be pushing us towards the goal of being more like God, even if we can't get there? What does this cause us to do?

8. John 21: 15-23 Discussion 3

Background: Jesus has an odd response when Peter tells him that he knows he loves him. He continually tells him to feed his sheep. It's a very unusual and selfless response. The selfless response shouldn't be surprising coming from Jesus, but the nature of the request can be puzzling.

Questions to Consider: Why does Jesus ask Peter to feed his sheep? What does this mean? Who are the sheep today? How do we feed them? How does this show love? What does this cause us to do?

9. John 21: 15-23 Discussion 4

Background: It might be worth noting that Peter and Jesus only discuss two types of love: Agape and Phillia. It might have been natural for them to mention storge, the fatherly and affection type of love. Eros would probably have been a stretch, however.

Questions to Consider: Does God love us with all four loves? Do we love God with all four loves? Do we love **ANYONE** with all four loves? What would it look like if we did love someone with all four loves? What does this cause us to do?

10. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 1 (Verses 1-3)

Background: The start of what many refer to as the "love chapter" starts very poetically. Paul speaks of many things that fail to hold up next to love when there is a comparison made. Prophecy, self-sacrifice, and speaking in tongues are all things that fail to compare to love.

Questions to Consider: What are things in today's life that we think are great, but pale in comparison to love? What are things we think are making a difference, but are just "clanging cymbals"? What is the modern day version of tongues? What does this cause us to do?

11. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 2 (Verses 4-7)

Background: The poet in Paul continues in the second part of the “love chapter”. Here, we find out some of the qualities of love. Patience, humbleness, trusting, hopeful, perseverance, and many other traits we should admire and look to develop in ourselves.

Questions to Consider: If we love more, can we be more like love? Or at least have more of the qualities of love that Paul describes here? How are we, individually and corporately, failing to live up to the qualities of love? How can we change this? How are we succeeding? What does this cause us to do?

12. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 3 (Verse 8a)

Background: Paul makes an important and emphatic statement here. “Love never fails”. Think about some of the word there: never and fails. Both of those bring up powerful attached thoughts. And yet we can attribute this quality to love without reservation.

Questions to Consider: If we are made for love, why do we fail when love does not? Is it because our love is not perfect? Is it because our love is not good enough? Or is it because we fail, regardless of our attempts to love? How and why do we fail individually and corporately? What does this cause us to do?

13. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 4 (Verse 1-12)

Background: Near the end of the chapter, Paul makes a statement that seems somewhat out of place. He mentions the difference between being a child and being a man, and how it changes not only us, but the world as we perceive it. It seems odd to include this in the middle of the “love chapter”. However, it is important to consider, as the maturation process is very important to all of us.

Questions to Consider: Does loving make us men? How so? How does love and doing loving acts and pondering loving ways change us? How does it change our perception of the world? What does this cause us to do?

14. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 5 (Verse 13)

Background: Paul now tells us that only three things remain: faith, hope, and love. Love is naturally in place here, as the chapter has focused on this, but faith and hope seem to have jumped in uninvited and a bit out of place. It’s probably worth considering why these are connected, and why they are introduced in the chapter at this point in time.

Questions to Consider: What do we have hope for? What do we place our hope in? What do we have faith in? What do we have faith for? How are faith, hope and love related? How do we make the three intertwined? What does this cause us to do?

15. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 6 (Is love the greatest in our lives/fraternity?) (Verse 13)

Background: Paul makes another bold statement about love, and about faith and hope. He says that while these three remain, love is the greatest. No doubt about it, there is a clear order, and love is at the top. The greatest. Nothing that lasts is as good as love.

Questions to Consider: Is love the greatest thing in our lives? The one thing that gets the most focus? What about in our brotherhood? If not, how can we make it so? What do we need to change? What does this cause us to do?

16. 1 Corinthians 13 Discussion 7 (What is the underlying call to action in this chapter)

Background: Looking at the chapter as a whole, we see plenty of poetry. Love is personified, described, compared, and in the end, named great and triumphant. It's a journey any hero would love to have, and words of praise most humans would envy.

Questions to Consider: What is the underlying call to action in this chapter? How can we personify love in our lives? How can our chapters and our National Brotherhood personify love? What does this cause us to do?

17. John 15: 9-14 Discussion 1

Background: This passage opens with a bold statement by Jesus: As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. And then, a request for Jesus that we remain in His love. The Love the Father has for Jesus is hard to describe. After all, God loves a perfect love, and Jesus is his only Son. At the same time, He does send Jesus to his death as a sacrificial lamb. Discovering exactly how the Father loves the Son could puzzle us for generations.

Questions to Consider: Is it possible for us to emulate the love that existed between Jesus and the Father? What does this love look like? What would our attempts to emulate this love look like? What does this cause us to do?

18. John 15: 9-14 Discussion 2

Background: Here, we are told what the greatest example of love is: laying down your life for your friend. This is a great and awesome command, and one that cannot be done without serious commitment. After all, there's no turning back!

Questions to Consider: Obviously, Jesus literally laid down his life, but can we figuratively lay our lives down for our friends? What are some ways to do this? Who is God asking us to lay parts of our lives down for? What does this cause us to do?

19. Luke 10: 25-29 Discussion 1

Background: Again, we are given a text that tells us about a “greatest”. This time, we get the greatest commandment, which is to Love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. And, we are given the runner-up, which is to love our neighbor as ourselves. Many say that these two commandments sum up the Ten Commandments.

Questions to Consider: What do our actions say about what we consider the greatest commandment(s)? What do we put ahead of loving God with everything we have? Is this another impossible command, where we should be happy attempting to reach as close as we can? What does this cause us to do?

20. Luke 10: 25-29 Discussion 2

Background: Here, we focus on the second greatest commandment, to love our neighbor as ourselves. Where the lawyer asks about a definition of who is neighbor is, there is perhaps a need to question other things, rather than splitting hairs about to whom we should show this awesome level of love.

Questions to Consider: How do we love our neighbor as ourselves? What actions do we perform? How does this apply to someone with low self-esteem? If you hate yourself, do you have the right to hate your neighbor? What does this cause us to do?

21. Luke 10: 25-29 Discussion 3 (What does it look like to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind?)

Background: All our heart. All our soul. All our strength. All our mind. Four things that are very tough to compute how we would give any of them. And yet, we are asked to give all four, without any hesitation or reservation.

Questions to Consider: What does it look like to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind? What can we accomplish if we put all of us into something? What can we accomplish if we put all of us into love? What does this cause us to do?

22. Luke 10: 25-37 Discussion 1

Background: This is a very well-known story, one that has been adopted many times into fables, children's tales, and other tales of morals. The Good Samaritan, and the reason it is good to not be closed-minded on who we help. Keep in mind, as you read the text, the status of Samaritans in this day and age, and how they were very clearly viewed as beneath Jews, and often unworthy to even share land with them.

Questions to Consider: There are often three roles in this story: the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan. I'm sure we can all think of times we've played all three roles. To whom do we play each role? Why? How do we choose who gets each treatment? Shouldn't we always try to play the same role? What does this cause us to do?

23. Luke 10: 25-37 Discussion 2 (What is the charge in today's world?)

Background: This is a very well-known story, one that has been adopted many times into fables, children's tales, and other tales of morals. The Good Samaritan, and the reason it is good to not be closed-minded on who we help. Keep in mind, as you read the text, the status of Samaritans in this day and age, and how they were very clearly viewed as beneath Jews, and often unworthy to even share land with them.

Questions to Consider: What similar task are we charged with in today's world? Who needs our help? Are we charged to just help, or also to "blow the whistle" on those who do not help, but should? Are we guilty of walking past those in need, and leaving the task for others who should do the work for us? What does this cause us to do?

24. Luke 10: 25-37 Discussion 3 (Who are today's Samaritans?)

Background: This is a very well-known story, one that has been adopted many times into fables, children's tales, and other tales of morals. The Good Samaritan, and the reason it is good to not be closed-minded on who we help. Keep in mind, as you read the text, the status of Samaritans in this day and age, and how they were very clearly viewed as beneath Jews, and often unworthy to even share land with them.

Questions to Consider: Samaritans did not choose to be Samaritans. They were born that way. Who are today's Samaritans? What help do they need from those of us who are God's people? Are they doing a better job of conveying the love of God than we are? What does this cause us to do?

25. 2 Samuel 11 Discussion 1

Background: The story of David and Bathsheba is a well-known story. A fantastic tale of the rich and famous, and their lust for more at any cost. Yet, we all know David wasn't evil. He's even described as a man after God's heart. So, the fact that he was corrupted is a cautionary tale for us all.

Questions to Consider: Is there love at play in this story? Is David improperly valuing a certain love over another type of love? Do we do that? Often? What tempts us to walk away from a life of pure and true love? What does this cause us to do?

26. 2 Samuel 11 Discussion 2

Background: The story of David and Bathsheba, as any good tale, prompts us to learn a lesson. David certainly learns a lesson in the end, and Israel is rewarded in the end. Yet, the lesson is not easy to learn, nor is it one David is too eager to learn, and it certainly doesn't come without a steep price.

Questions to Consider: What lessons of love(s) can we learn from David? How can we avoid repeating David's mistake(s)? How does prioritizing and learning to live a life of love help? What does this cause us to do?

27. Discussion on State of Love in the Brotherhood

Background: We are a Brotherhood of Christian men. Love is a theme that runs through the Bible in many forms, and in many ways. It weaves it's way in and out of stories, and prompts us, encourages us, warns us, and surrounds us. It sounds almost like the Force through Yoda's eyes.

Questions to Consider: What is the state of love in the Brotherhood? What is it at the level of your chapter? On a National level? In your personal life? What needs improvement? What is an area of strength? What does this cause us to do?

28. Discussion on Love Taking on a Life of Its Own

Background: Like all things, love is not always a good thing. It seems odd to say, but it can be manipulated, misused, and twisted. It is not always presented in its most honest light. We often mistake other things for love, or incorrectly label things as love that are not love, or label things as not love when they are, in fact, love.

Questions to Consider: How does love take on a life of its own? Is this always a bad thing? How do we prevent it? How have we misused, manipulated, and twisted love? How have others done the same to us? What does this cause us to do?

29. Discussion on Perception of Love in Society

Background: “Love” is presented in society everywhere we look. In movies, on television, and in songs, we often see a theme of love. We’re given quirky looks at it, with things like “What’s Love Got to Do With It”, and womanizing movies that claim to have a theme of love. It seems as if love at its core and love as it is presented in modern day society are quite different.

Questions to Consider: How is love presented in modern society? How is this different than the love we know from God and from sharing God? What can we do to help change the perception and presentation? What does this cause us to do?

30. Discussion on the Four-Fold Purpose and Love

Background: I trust that everyone reading this or planning to discuss this has some understanding of the four-fold purpose of Sigma Theta Epsilon. But have we considered the impact of love on each of these statements, or the impact of each of these statements on love? Review the purpose, and see what you find.

Questions to Consider: Do all four of the purposes deal with love on some level? Can we view them in such a way that they can? Which deal with it explicitly, and which deal with it implicitly? What does this say about love and the purpose of Sigma Theta Epsilon? What does this cause us to do?

Suggested Playlist

I don't know about you, but I love music. I've never been overly gifted with musical ability, but I've always enjoyed it. Classical music, big band, oldies, rock, rap, worship, live, on CD ... whatever. I love music.

I find that music gives us an easy platform to express feelings truth and emotion. It must be something about a beat that gives more life to words. For whatever reason, it's easy to identify with music, and easy to dissect it and find deeper meaning, and a deeper calling. If you ask me it began with the Psalms.

I've selected twelve songs that I feel can help bring into focus the theme "Made For Love". Some of these are very explicit about what it is like to live for love, and to live a life of love. Others are quieter, and make you think about how they relate to love. But, I guarantee that if you take an honest look at them, you will be compelled to find how to live the type of love personified in them.

I'm providing not only a list of the songs, but also the lyrics. It's up to you how you use these. Maybe you want to look at the lyrics and have serious discussion. Maybe you want to play one of them at each Brotherhood meeting to focus the Brotherhood. Maybe you'll be inspired to write your own songs based on our theme, and share them at Conclave. It's truly an open-ended prompt to try to give my Brothers another attempt at understanding and living our program theme.

Most of these songs (10 of the 12) are available on iTunes for \$0.99. The other two can be located if you try hard enough. I encourage you to find them, listen to them, and find truth, God, and love in them all.

Made to Love

By Tobymac

Available on the "Portable Sound" CD.

Also available on iTunes.

The dream is fading now I'm staring at the door
I know it's over 'cause my feet have hit the cold floor
Check my reflection, I ain't feelin what I see It's no mystery
Whatever happened to a passion I could live for?
What became of the flame that made me feel more?
And when did I forget...

I was made to love You
I was made to find You
I was made just for You
Made to adore You
I was made to love and be loved by You
You were here before me, You were waiting on me
And You said You'd keep me never would You leave me
I was made to love, And be loved by You

The dream's alive with my eyes open wide
Back in the ring, You got me swingin' for the grand prize
I feel the haters spittin' vapors on my dreams
But I still believe...
I'm reaching out, reachin' up, reachin' over
I feel a breeze cover me called Jehovah
And Daddy I'm on way

I was made to love You
I was made to find You
I was made just for You
Made to adore You
I was made to love and be loved by You
You were here before me, You were waiting on me
And You said You'd keep me never would You leave me
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Made to adore You
I was made to love and be loved by You
You were here before me, You were waiting on me
And You said You'd keep me never would You leave me
I was made to love, And be loved by You

Anything I would give up for You
Everything I give it all away
Anything I would give up for You
Everything I give it all away

Change the World

By P.O.D.

Available on the "Payable on Death" CD

Also available on iTunes

Imagine a place only your soul can vision
The heart of a child who looks, sees, and listens
Paints a picture using every color
And what she sees she sees it like no other

One word (one word) , a voice unheard
You can Change The World
With everything I know your made of
One word (one word), a voice unheard
You can Change The World
If everyone would stop and listen

The art of innocence makes so much sense
but placed in the wrong hands, well then it's wasted
Filtered through the eyes of a pure mind
A one of a kind, paradise for you and I, you and I

One word, a voice unheard
You can Change The World
With everything I know your made of
One word, a voice unheard
You can Change The World
If everyone would stop and listen
Break the cycle, find your rhythm
Share the gift that you've been given - Love
You can, You can Change The World
You can Change The World with love

One word, a voice unheard
You can Change The World
With everything I know your made of
One word, a voice unheard
You can Change The World
If everyone would stop and listen

One word, a voice unheard
You can Change The World
With everything I know your made of
One word, a voice unheard
You can Change The World
If everyone would stop and listen

Love Song for a Savior

By Jars of Clay

Available on the "Jars of Clay" CD

Also available on iTunes

In open fields of wild flowers
She breathes the air and flies away
(She thanks her Jesus for) the daisies and the roses
In no simple language
Someday she'll understand the meaning of it all

He's more than the laughter or the stars in the heavens
As close as a heartbeat or a song on her lips
Someday she'll trust Him and learn how to see Him
Someday He'll call her and she will come running
And fall in His arms, and the tears will fall down and she'll pray

I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You

Oooooooh, Oooooooh

Sitting silent, wearing Sunday best
The sermon echoes through the walls
(A great salvation through) it calls to the people
Who stare into nowhere, and can't feel the chains on their souls

He's more than the laughter or the stars in the heavens
As close as a heartbeat or a song on our lips
Someday we'll trust Him and learn how to see Him
Someday He'll call us and we will come running
And fall in His arms, and the tears will fall down and we'll pray

I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You

we want to pray
la la la la la la...

It seems too easy to call You Savior
Not close enough to call you God
(So as I sit and think of) words I can mention
To show my devotion

I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You
I want to fall in love with You

Love Addict

By Family Force 5

Available on the "Business Up Front/Party In The Back" CD

Also available on iTunes

Hold up, wait a minute, put a little love in it

Doctor, Doctor, I've got an emergency
It seems I'm head over heels, a case of L-O-V-E
It's like I'm glowing inside
Yeah, a light I can't hide
And if this feeling is bad then I don't wanna be right
What I've got in my soul gives me the highest delight
Oh yeah it's better than drugs
In fact it's sent from above, huh huh

Hold up, wait a minute, put a little love in it

Hey, Can't kick the habit
Yeah, I got to have it
Yeah, I 'm what they call a
Love addict, Love addict
Hey, can't live without it
Yeah, G'on shout about it
Hey, I'm a symptomatic
Love addict, Love addict

Need a refill cause I just can't get enough
I've got a fever, oh yeah, and the prescription's love
So lay the truth on me
Cause that is all that I need

Hold up, wait a minute, put a little love in it

Hey, Can't kick the habit
Yeah, I got to have it
Yeah, I 'm what they call a
Love addict, Love addict
Hey, can't live without it
Yeah, G'on shout about it
Hey, I'm a symptomatic
Love addict, Love addict

I'm blessed, I must confess
My heart is pounding in my chest
Cause this love's the best
I'm just a love addict

Coming down with something outrageous
Lookout now cause it so contagious
This feeling's got me reeling
So amped up that I hit the ceiling
Gotta clear my throat
Huh huh, now I gotta have some more

Hold up, wait a minute, put a little love in it

Love is Different

By Caedmon's Call

Available on the "Long Line of Leavers" CD

Also available on iTunes

Well it looks like five thousand miles
Broke the camel's back
But it's not as though I had a plan
To win you back
Because I don't know what I want
But at least I know that much
I'm afraid love came right up
And slapped me in the face
But I did not know, no
Cause...

Love is different than you'd think
It's never in a song, or on a TV screen
And love is harder than a word
Said at the right time, and everything's alright
I said love is different than you'd think

And so I won't expect a postcard
From Trefulgar's square
But I'd be lying if I said
I didn't care
Because you can't just turn it off
And put a blindfold on your heart
But I'm off to a good start
We're a continent away
But I do not know, oh no
Cause...

Love is different than you'd think
It's never in a song, or on a TV screen
And love is harder than a word
Said at the right time, and everything's alright
I said love is different than you'd think

Maybe you're the dream I'm waking from
But I see you everywhere I go
Darling, you are such a mystery to me
You know, don't you know that...

Love is different than you'd think
It's never in a song, or on a TV screen
And love is harder than a word
Said at the right time, and everything's alright
I said love is different than you'd think

God is Love

By John Reuben

Available on the "Are We There Yet?" CD

Also available on iTunes

love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above

thinkin' of my past motivates my future will I make or break love or hate
now tell me who's the fake n who's the snake man who can I trust so many promises I seen bust
justice never accomplished right so I gotta let that go and keep movin yeshua illuminate my path
and keep me tuned in so much negative around for me to still get consumed in, but I still have peace
in the misdst of confusion I still have peace in the midst of confusion

even though I know my life has purpose I find myself down n' out feelin' worthless
and defenseless against them that rise against me but I still call no man my enemy
cuz competition is none no competitors Matthew 5:44 has got me prayin' for predators
turnin' cheeks on the regular so throw your dart and chances are you'll hit the heart,
but never take me apart because I'm found in yeshua so who can be agaist me that's what I thought:
nobody

love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin' love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin'

tobymac and I came to drop this on you I got a fresh point of view
John Reuben let me tell you what I'm tryin' to say the world can't take theses smiles away
sunny days though they may be gray and by the way some people just love to hate
but I got love for them all so much love for them all God is love with a capital L
and it's the last thing he told us thought Christ as well you got to love God with all your heart
and love your brother like you love yourself love your brother like you love yourself man
and for you john that's a whole lotta love

:
love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin' love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin'

love huh no ones above it or below it
love right some think they're tough cuz they don't show it
love huh we'll make it plain to see
that we got love even if they haven't for we
love huh no ones above it or below it
love right some think they're tough cuz they don't show it
love huh we'll make it plain to see
that we got love even if they haven't for we

love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin' love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin' love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
sing it like love is God and God is love no one's below no one's above
singin'

Expansive Love

By Ryan Clements

Available on the "jOURney House Band" CD

Who is like you, Oh God?
Heaven's opened up
Wide enough for me to walk right in.

Arms are stretched out wide
To feel your warm embrace
We catch a glimpse
Of the smile on your face

We draw close, and find
You were there, waiting all the time

Wide expansive love
Is running over
Rushing flood
Sweep me away
In your unending flood

Who is like you, oh God?
Grace is pouring out
Covering the heart here in my chest
Chasing after you
Relentlessly pursue
We see perfection in all things
Everything you do

We draw close and find
You were there, waiting all the time

Wide expansive love
Is running over
Rushing flood
Sweep me away
In your unending flood

Wide expansive love
Is running over
Rushing flood
Sweep me away
In your unending flood

All You Need Is Love

By The Beatles

Available on the "Magical Mystery Tour" CD

Love, love, love
Love, love, love
Love, love, love

There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy

There's nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do but you can learn how to be you in time
It's easy

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

Love, love, love
Love, love, love
Love, love, love

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

There's nothing you can know that isn't known
Nothing you can see that isn't shown
No where you can be that isn't where you're meant to be
It's easy

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need

All you need is love
All you need is love
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need
Love is all you need
That is all you need
That is all you need
That is all you need
That is all you need

When Love Comes to Town

By U2, covered by Todd Agnew

Available on the "In The Name of Love: Artists United for Africa" CD

Also available on iTunes

I was a sailor, I was lost at sea
I was under the waves
Before love rescued me
I was a fighter, I could turn on a thread
Now I stand accused of the things I've said

Love comes to town I'm gonna jump that train
When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame
Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down
But I did what I did before love came to town

I used to make love under a red sunset
I was making promises I was soon to forget
She was pale as the lace of her wedding gown
But I left her standing before love came to town

I ran into a juke joint when I heard a guitar scream
The notes were turning blue, I was dazing in a dream
As the music played I saw my life turn around
That was the day before love came to town

When love comes to town I'm gonna jump that train
When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame
Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down
But I did what I did before love came to town

I was there when they crucified my Lord
I held the scabbard when the soldier drew his sword
I threw the dice when they pierced his side
But I've seen love conquer the great divide

When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that train
When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame
Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down
But I did what I did before love came to town

Meant to Live

By Switchfoot

Available on the "The Beautiful Letdown" CD

Also available on iTunes

Fumbling his confidence
And wondering why the world has passed him by
Hoping that he's bent for more than arguments
And failed attempts to fly, fly

We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside
Somewhere we live inside
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside

Dreaming about Providence
And whether mice or men have second tries
Maybe we've been livin with our eyes half open
Maybe we're bent and broken, broken

We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside
Somewhere we live inside
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
Somewhere we live inside

We want more than this world's got to offer
We want more than this world's got to offer
We want more than the wars of our fathers
And everything inside screams for second life yeah

We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
We were meant to live for so much more
Have we lost ourselves?
We were meant to live
We were meant to live

A Little More

By Skillet

Available on the "Collide" CD

Also available on iTunes

Love is all around you now so take a hold
Hidden in our words it sometimes ain't enough
Don't suffocate day after day, it's building up
'Cause when you're feeling weak you know I'm strong enough

Just one more day
One more day

Oh, let the world crash love can take it
Oh, let the world come crashing down
Oh, let the world crash love can take it
Love can take a little, love can give a little more

Love is indestructible so take a hold
Sometimes hard to find a reason good enough
I'll stand beside you never leave, through it all
And faith will bring a way to the impossible

Just one more day
One more day

Oh, let the world crash love can take it
Oh, let the world come crashing down
Oh, let the world crash love can take it
Love can take a little, love can give a little more

You can find me
You can find me
You can find me anywhere
Take a look over you shoulder
I'll be standing there
Standing there

Love is all around you now so take a hold
And faith will bring a way to the impossible

Just one more day (You can find me)
One more day (You can find me)
One more day (You can find me anywhere)
One more day (You can find me)
One more day (You can find me)
One more day (You can find me anywhere)

Oh, let the world crash love can take it
Oh, let the world come crashing down
Oh, let the world crash love can take it
Love can take a little, love can give a little more

A little more
Take a little more
Take a little more
Woah take a little more

Pride (In the Name of Love)

By U2

Available on the "The Unforgettable Fire" CD

Also available on iTunes

One man come in the name of love
One man come and go
One come he to justify
One man to overthrow

In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love

One man caught on a barbed wire fence
One man he resist
One man washed on an empty beach.
One man betrayed with a kiss

In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love

(nobody like you...)

Early morning, April 4
Shot rings out in the Memphis sky
Free at last, they took your life
They could not take your pride

In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love
In the name of love
What more in the name of love...