



KEEP
the
FAITH

BIG IDEA
Stand by people, even when they disappoint, because God stands by you.

1

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. **To love is to be vulnerable.**

CS Lewis "The Four Loves"


2

Option 1
Protect your heart so it becomes hardened



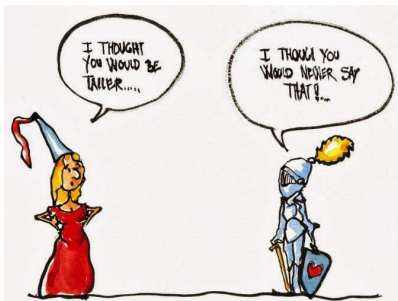
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Option 2
Love and be hurt



4

1. People Disappoint



I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE TALLER....

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER SAY THAT!

5

People disappointed Paul



Demas, a fellow worker, deserted him (verse 10)

Alexander did him much harm (verse 14)

Nobody stood by him at his first defence (verse 1)

People will disappoint YOU

6

2. Stand By People



7

We in the modern West - I mean the last three hundred years or so - have a love affair with the strong, independent, self-sufficient, self-assertive hero who accomplishes great feats against all odds, with little help from others ... as a whole, it is not the kind of life that Paul extolled or encouraged or modelled. **He was never alone in ministry by choice.**

John Piper "Why I Love the Apostle Paul"

8

**Paul stood by people
whether or not they stood by him
because ministry needs to be undertaken as a team**



9

**3. Stand by people even when they disappoint
because of how God stands by you.**



10

Even though others
deserted Paul,
the Lord ...

- **Stood by him**
- **Strengthened him**
- **Rescued him**



11

Will we

Stand by people, even when they disappoint,
because of how God stands by us ?

Let's pray

Lord, help us to be this kind of community
That stands by one another even when it's hard.

Thank you that you stand with us
even when it's hard.

In Jesus' name
Amen

12