



# Finding Your Stewardship Love Language

*J. Davey Gerhard Canon for Stewardship & Executive Director*

# The Five Love Languages

Many people have found Gary Chapman's book The Five Love Languages to be useful in navigating relationships, vocations, and purpose. It hit the New York Times Bestsellers list in 2007, and since then more than 20 million copies have been sold.

You can learn more about *The Five Love Languages* at <https://5lovelanguages.com/>

*Introduction*

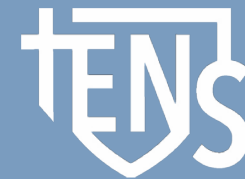


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# Learning Objectives

1. What is a love language? Why does it matter?
2. Listening to the Gospel – what are the languages of love that we hear?
3. Love languages as a lens for Stewardship
4. How to use love languages for planning and implementing campaigns

*Introduction*



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# What is YOUR Love Language?

## The Love Language® Quiz

For couples, singles, teens, and children.

Take this quiz to discover your primary love language, what it means, and how you can use it to better connect with your loved ones.

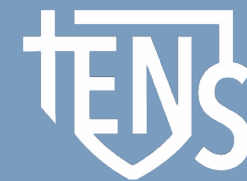
English Español

Start

You may print, share, or save your results for future reference - they will not be saved automatically.



*Introduction*

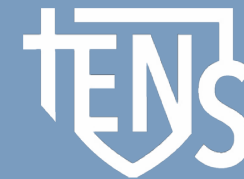


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# The 5 Love Languages

- ▶ Acts of Service
- ▶ Physical Presence (Touch)
- ▶ Quality Time
- ▶ Words of Affirmation
- ▶ Gifts

*Teaching Love Languages*



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# Liturgy: Acts of Service

- ▶ Altar Guild
- ▶ Ushers
- ▶ Choir
- ▶ Faith Formation teachers
- ▶ Lectors
- ▶ Acolytes and Crucifers



Acolytes in the Diocese of Hawai'i

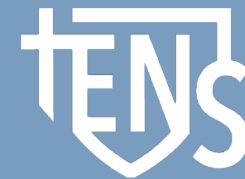
# Liturgy: Physical Presence

- ▶ Offering the peace
- ▶ Standing, sitting, kneeling
- ▶ Singing
- ▶ The BCP, hymnal or worship guide
- ▶ Consuming the bread and wine
- ▶ Receiving a blessing
- ▶ Vestments, linens, windows and other items of beauty
- ▶ ...

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**Eucharist with Presiding Bishop Curry, St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC**



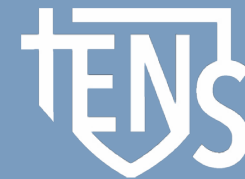
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# Liturgy: Quality Time

- ▶ Gathering at a set time for worship
- ▶ Turning off our phones
- ▶ Settling our minds and hearts
- ▶ ...



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# Liturgy: Words of Affirmation

- ▶ Hymns of praise
- ▶ The Great Thanksgiving
- ▶ Sharing the Peace
- ▶ ...



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# Liturgy: Gifts

- ▶ Plate and pledge
- ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ Bread and wine
- ▶ Artwork
- ▶ ...



Episcopal Church of the Redeemer,  
Cincinnati, Ohio: Bread Guild

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# Learning Love Languages from Love embodied

*What love language/s are present?*

- Acts of Service, Physical Presence (Touch), Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Gifts

Matthew 9: 20-22

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well.

*Finding Love Languages in the Gospel*

# Learning Love Languages from Love embodied

*What love language/s are present?*

- Acts of Service, Physical Presence (Touch), Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Gifts

Mark 14: 3-9

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.'

*Finding Love Languages in the Gospel*

# Learning Love Languages from Love embodied

*What love language/s are present?*

- ▶ Acts of Service, Physical Presence (Touch), Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Gifts

Mark 2: 1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the paralytic— 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

*Finding Love Languages in the Gospel*

# Love Languages in Stewardship

- ▶ We are motivated to share our gifts by many things
  - ▶ Recognition
  - ▶ It feels good to give
  - ▶ Impact – we see our gifts at work in the world
  - ▶ We were asked / participation
  - ▶ Sense of duty
  - ▶ To be active in changing the world



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*Motivations and Love Language*

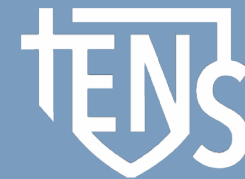
# Love Languages in Stewardship

*Acts of Service, Physical Presence (Touch), Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Gifts*

- ▶ In Stewardship we say that every gift should be thanked seven times. Using love languages, here are some ways to recognize gifts
  - ▶ Handwritten note
  - ▶ General thanksgiving for all who participated
  - ▶ A festive party or luncheon
  - ▶ A token gift – handmade or small
  - ▶ Take someone out to lunch, coffee
  - ▶ A report on impact / ministry



*Motivations and Love Language*



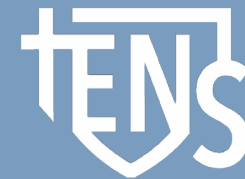
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# Love Languages in Stewardship

- ▶ Giving Feels Good
  - ▶ Positive reaffirmation
  - ▶ Sense of joy in seeing people happy
  - ▶ Co-Creation in growing God's reign
  - ▶ Camaraderie – adding a gift to other gifts
  - ▶ Feeling fulfilled



*Motivations and Love Language*



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# Love Languages in Stewardship

- ▶ Impact drives our Giving
  - ▶ We feel a sense of purpose when we see how our gift impacts our neighbors or our neighborhood
  - ▶ Hearing stories from people who benefit from our ministry or from volunteers or staff who work in our programs

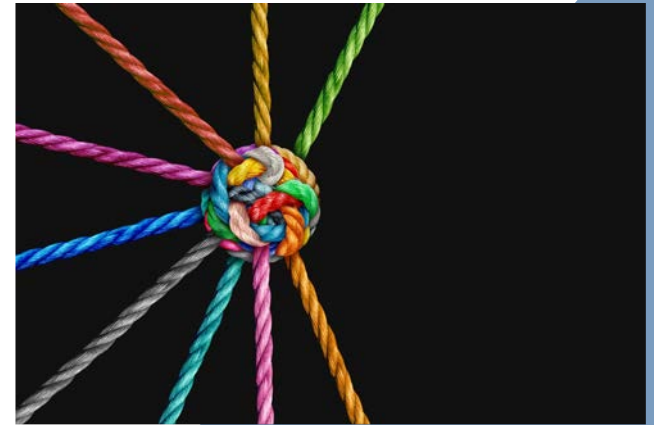


*Motivations and Love Language*

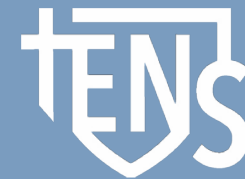
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# Love Languages in Stewardship

- ▶ The importance of Invitation
  - ▶ Being asked to give make us feel like what we have is of value
  - ▶ There are many ways we can be asked:
    - ▶ Sharing ideas and solving problems
    - ▶ Serving on a task force or a committee
    - ▶ Giving advice / wisdom
    - ▶ Being asked to teach a class or pass along a skill
    - ▶ Being asked for a specific amount of money for a specific ministry or need



*Motivations and Love Language*



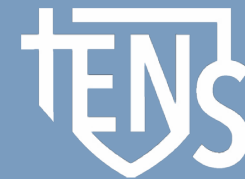
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# Love Languages in Stewardship

- ▶ Duty or Sense of Commitment
  - ▶ Your church needs your gifts
  - ▶ Your church has been there for you, make sure it's there for the next generations
  - ▶ No matter the size, you are asked to give (the widow's mite)
  - ▶ Can we count on you?
  - ▶ Your gift makes the difference



*Motivations and Love Language*



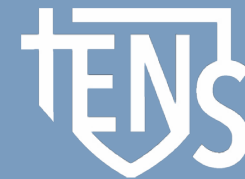
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# Love Languages in Stewardship

- ▶ Desire to see change
  - ▶ Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to participate with Jesus in changing the world
  - ▶ The Great Commission calls us to go into all parts of the world to share the Good news
  - ▶ Our gifts of wealth, works, and wisdom make our communities stronger and address the needs of our neighbors



*Motivations and Love Language*



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# Love Languages and Your Campaign

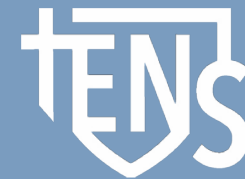
- ▶ Speaking *all* the love languages
  - ▶ Recruiting diverse volunteers to express the opportunities to share our lives
- ▶ Hearing *all* the love languages
  - ▶ Receiving gifts in a variety of expressions

*Implementing a Campaign*

GENEROSITY  
LOVE GRATITUDE SISTER  
STEWARDSHIP  
HOMELESS KINDNESS MANAGE  
LEARN WORSHIP TREASURE CONNECT CARE ORPHAN GRATITUDE PATIENCE  
STEWARDSHIP  
GENEROSITY CARE BELIEVE  
THANKS HOSPITALITY  
WORSHIP JUSTICE PRAISE  
GLADNESS CONNECT  
TRUST SHARE LEARN

WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE...

JOIN  
GRATITUDE STRANGER WORSHIP CONNECT  
BLESSINGS POOR WELCOME  
GRATITUDE BLESSINGS JOY FORGIVE GRATITUDE ABUNDANCE LEARN  
WORSHIP CARE LEARN CONNECT WIDOW PEACE IMMIGRANT HOPE  
GIVE GENEROSITY HUMBLE  
CREATION ACCEPT CONNECT  
LITTLE ONES GIVE LEARN CARE  
CONNECT  
WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP  
GENEROSITY  
CONNECT  
JOY



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# Love Languages and Your Campaign

## Speaking *all* the love languages

- ▶ Embodied, physical acts of service tied to campaign
  - ▶ collect new socks for shelter, old towels for guide dogs, restore a pathway on campus or a bridge at a local park, walk-a-thon to raise awareness & funds for local initiative)
- ▶ Create connection opportunities through...
  - ▶ service opportunities, fellowship, house meetings, 1:1
- ▶ Preach affirming words
  - ▶ “You are a generous community.”
  - ▶ You are walking in love in these beautiful ways...”
- ▶ Use appreciative language in letters, testimonies, messaging
- ▶ Give something to every member over a month
  - ▶ stickers, grocery bags, giving plates, car magnets, handmade art from children/VBS, mugs, Christmas ornament, pansies, button, baby pumpkin



*Implementing a Campaign*

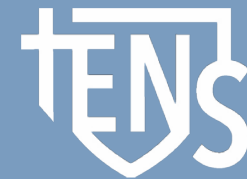


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# Love Languages and Your Campaign

- ▶ Hearing **all** the love languages
  - ▶ Receiving gifts in a variety of expressions
- ▶ Hearing **all** the love languages
  - ▶ Receiving gifts in a variety of expressions
    - ▶ Physical pledge card
    - ▶ Volunteering
    - ▶ Invite people to share expressions of gratitude
    - ▶ Collect an item on Ingathering Sunday
      - socks for shelter
      - food for pantry

*Implementing a Campaign*



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# Love Languages in Stewardship

## Discussion

- Considering this new information, where might you reach people in a new way?
- Where might we expand what we already do to motivate people to give?
- Align what you are already doing with the language of love that motivates you



# TENS Theme for 2025

What is the good news that you cannot wait to share with the world? What stories do you have that need to be told, that can help others relate to the world around them? How do you inspire generosity in others by your words, actions, and witness?

The theme of our campaign materials this year focuses on our storytelling, on the way we tell our friends and neighbors about our faith, our ministry, and our mission. What is your good news?

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*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."* **Luke 1:46-47, NRSV**





Thank you!

For more information, resources, and  
videos, find us at [www.tens.org](http://www.tens.org)

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