

Bible Study Guide: The True Light – Living in Love

(Advent Series – Week 4: Love)

 Source Transcript:

Big Idea

God’s love is not distant or conditional—it is personal, present, and freely given through Jesus Christ.

Theme

True love is revealed in Jesus: a love that comes near, dwells with us, and is received by grace—not earned.

Core Scripture

John 1:14–18

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us... full of grace and truth.”

Introduction: What Does Real Love Look Like?

The world defines love as:

- Feelings
- Attraction
- Temporary connection
- Performance-based acceptance

But Scripture reveals something radically different:

Key Insight:

“God’s love is not just spoken—it is demonstrated, lived, and given.”

This Advent message shows us that love is:

- Personal
 - Present
 - Pursuing
 - Grace-filled
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Main Point 1: Love Comes Near – “The Word Became Flesh”

Explanation

God did not love us from a distance—He came **into our world**.

“The Word became flesh... to be with us, for us, and among us.”

This means:

- God understands our struggles
- God experienced our pain
- God entered our brokenness

Spiritual Truth

Love:

- Does not avoid pain
- Does not stay distant
- Enters into the mess

Supporting Scriptures

- Philippians 2:6–7
- Hebrews 4:15

Application

- Do I see God as distant or personal?
- Where do I need to invite Jesus into my struggles?

Sticky Quote:

“Real love doesn’t stay distant—it steps into your reality.”

Main Point 2: Love is Personal and Relational

Explanation

Jesus made God visible and relational:

- Seen
- Heard
- Touched
- Experienced

This transforms love from:

- Abstract → Personal
- Distant → Intimate

Spiritual Insight

Love is not:

- A concept
- A theory

Love is:

- A relationship with Jesus

Application

- Is my relationship with Jesus personal or just intellectual?
- How am I cultivating intimacy with God?

Sticky Quote:

“Love is not an idea—it is a relationship with a living Savior.”

Main Point 3: Love Dwells With Us

Key Concept: “Dwelt among us” = Tabernacled with us

Explanation

God doesn’t visit—He **dwells**.

“God’s love is not seasonal or temporary—it is a covenant.”

This means:

- God stays in the highs and lows
- God pursues us when we wander
- God desires a home in our hearts

Biblical Connection

- Exodus 25:8 – God dwelling with His people
- Luke 15 – Leaving the 99 to find the one

Spiritual Insight

God’s love is:

- Persistent
- Pursuing
- Patient

Application

- Have I invited Christ to truly dwell in my life?
- Am I resisting His presence in any area?

Sticky Quote:

“God doesn’t just visit your life—He wants to live there.”

Main Point 4: Love is a Gift—Not Something Earned

Key Scripture: Romans 5:8

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Explanation

Love is not:

- Earned
- Deserved
- Achieved

Love is:

- Given
- Received
- Grace upon grace

“Christmas is not about deserving—it’s about receiving.”

Spiritual Insight

We often:

- Try to “earn” God’s love
- Feel unworthy when we fail

But God says:

- Open your hands
- Receive the gift

Application

- Am I trying to earn God’s love?
- What would it look like to simply receive it?

Sticky Quote:

“You don’t achieve God’s love—you receive it.”

Main Point 5: Love Changes How We See Others

Explanation

When we receive God's love:

- We stop judging
- We start understanding
- We begin to serve

Spiritual Truth

No one is:

- Better
- More deserving
- More righteous

We are all:

- Recipients of grace

Application

- Do I treat others with the same grace God gives me?
- Where do I need to extend love instead of judgment?

Sticky Quote:

“Receiving grace changes how you give grace.”

Main Point 6: Love Calls for Obedience, Not Perfection

Explanation

God is not asking for:

- Perfection
- Performance

He is asking for:

- Obedience
- Surrender

“You can be obedient and still fail—but God’s love never leaves.”

Spiritual Insight

Failure does not:

- Disqualify you
- Define you

God’s love says:

- Get back up
- Keep walking

Application

- Where have I allowed failure to define me?
- How can I step forward in obedience today?

Sticky Quote:

“God isn’t asking for perfection—He’s asking for your heart.”

Discussion Questions

1. What does “the Word became flesh” mean to you personally?
 2. Where do you struggle to believe God is truly present in your life?
 3. Are you trying to earn God’s love or receive it?
 4. How does God’s love change the way you treat others?
 5. What step of obedience is God calling you to take right now?
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Practical Application Steps

1. Invite God to Dwell

- Pray daily: “Lord, live in every part of my life”

2. Receive Grace

- Stop striving—start receiving
- Practice gratitude for God’s love

3. Extend Love

- Show grace to someone difficult
- Serve without expecting anything in return

4. Walk in Obedience

- Take one step God is prompting you toward
- Trust Him even when you fall short

Closing Prayer

Father,
Thank You for a love that came near,
a love that dwells with us,
and a love that we do not have to earn.

Help us to receive Your grace fully,
to walk in obedience,
and to extend that same love to others.

Let Your love transform our hearts
and flow through our lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Takeaway

God's love didn't stay in heaven—it came to earth, moved into your life, and invites you to receive it fully.