

2024



EROS

WHAT KIND OF LOVE IS THIS?

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

EROS

THE GREEK WORD THAT IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE ROMANTIC LOVE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. THOUGH THE WORD ITSELF IS NOT IN THE BIBLE, EXAMPLES OF GOD-GIVEN ROMANTIC LOVE ARE EVERYWHERE.

EROS CREATED

Genesis 2:18, 21-23 NIV - [18] The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." [21] So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. [22] Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. [23] The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

- Romantic love was created by God
- God's plan is for man and woman to come together as one in in marriage

What is your perspective on romantic love? What shaped your idea of romantic love?

EXAMPLES OF EROS

- Abraham and Sarah (enduring love)
- Jacob and Rachel (patient love)
- Hosea and Gomer (forgiving love)

From the above examples, which relationship do you most identify with? Why?

THE TEST OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 3:4-8 NIV - [4] Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. [8] Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

THE 16 FACTS OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV

* LOVE IS PATIENT

* IT DOES NOT ENVY

* IT IS NOT PROUD

* LOVE IS KIND

* IT DOES NOT BOAST

* IT DOES NOT DISHONOR

- * IT IS NOT SELF SEEKING
- * IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONG
- * REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH
- * ALWAYS TRUSTS
- * ALWAYS PRESERVES
- * IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED
- * LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL
- * ALWAYS PROTECTS
- * ALWAYS HOPES
- * LOVE NEVER FAILS

- Love is multi-faceted
- Love requires work
- Love is a commitment

Which of the facts of love do you struggle with most? Which fact of love do you value most? Why?

EXAMPLE OF EROS LOVE BETWEEN MARY AND JOSEPH

EROS IS PROMISING

Matthew 1:18 NIV - This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

- Love makes you keep your word
- Ask God to help you to keep your word
- Honor the promises you make
- Love is not built on lies, but rather torn down by them
- Promise keepers are consistent in their actions
- Better not to make a vow than to make it and break it
- God will uphold that comes out of your mouth

Ecclesiastes 5:5 NIV - It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it. What vow of love have you made and broken? Why did you break it?

1 Corinthians 13:7c - always perseveres.

EROS IS PROTECTIVE

Matthew 1:19 NIV - Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

- You cover what you love
- Love does not allow public exposure for public disgrace

- Love defends your integrity, name, reputation, and honor
- When you love, you do not seek to destroy
- Some things you have to keep to yourself

What relationship did you not feel protected in? Are you still in the relationship? If not, what happened?

*1 Corinthians 13:7 - It always **protects**,*

EROS IS PATIENT

*Matthew 1:24-25 NIV - [24] When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. [25] **But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son.** And he gave him the name Jesus.*

- You can't talk yourself into someone's heart, give them to God
- You do not have the power to change anyone
- Love waits for you to grow up and mature
- What you have been waiting for is about to arrive
- You have sown too much to walk away now
- Love is an investment and you may not see the results/reward overnight

How long are you willing to wait for what God has for you?

*1 Corinthians 13:4a NIV - Love is **patient**.*

EROS PRODUCES

*Matthew 13:54-56 NIV - [54] Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. [55] "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and **aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?** [56] **Aren't all his sisters with us?** Where then did this man get all these things?"*

- When you love, there are tangible results of your love
- Love is not envious of what God has placed in you
- And there is still more
- You are being shifted to a larger territory that will hold what you produce
- Your increase will be too large to count

What has your love produced?

THE ONLY WAY TO GIVE LOVE OR RECEIVE LOVE IS... YOU MUST HAVE GOD!

1 John 4:7-8 NIV - [7] Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- It is impossible to love without God
- God has to help us love
- God's love for us is the example of how we are to love one another
- Just because you feel it doesn't mean it's your reality
- Normal to have a gap season
- Certain things God will keep hidden from you until God made it the right time
- God is a Promise Keeper

Reflecting on how you love, do you struggle most with receiving love or loving others? Why?

QUESTION

If we have God we should have love, so what can we do to overcome our difficulties with love?

DECLARATION

I can receive and give love because I have God.

PRAYER

Father God, I thank You for loving me. Thank You for wanting me to be partnered in Eros love. Lord show me how to love and to receive love that You may be honored in my relationship. Help me to be attentive, kind, patient, and forgiving. Help me to not give up on love, but to persevere in the hope of love. Free my mind and heart of all past hurts so that it does not hinder my current relationship. Always remind me of Your love towards me so that I may extend that same love to those whom I love. I promise to love as You have loved me in Jesus' name, Amen!