



[Light the first two candles, the pink candle to start off your time.]

I love my wife.

My wife loves our dog. Yeah, you picked up on that... my wife loves the dog. My thoughts on the dog? Meh.

I love smoked pulled pork... West Tennessee style.

Love has a lot of different meanings in English. This week, let's discover the biblical weight of this word that we throw around flippantly.

If you choose, begin by watching the video about LOVE. Follow the QR code or follow this link (<https://spencerchristianchurch.subspla.sh/c3r7gj7>) to access the video.



Romans 5:8 NASB But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 3:18 NASB Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

John 13:34 NASB A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Galatians 5:13 NASB For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

ADULT VERSION OF QUESTION

1. Romans 5:8 shows God's love through Christ's sacrifice for us, and John 13:34 calls us to love others as Jesus loves us. How can you reflect this sacrificial love by taking a specific action to serve or forgive someone in your life today?
2. 1 John 3:18 urges us to love with actions, not just words, and Galatians 5:13 encourages serving others through love. What practical step can you take this week to show genuine love to someone in need, bringing God's love to life in your community?

KID VERSION OF QUESTION

1. Romans 5:8 says God showed His love by sending Jesus for us, and John 13:34 tells us to love others like Jesus does. How can you show Jesus' love by helping or being kind to someone at school or home today?
2. 1 John 3:18 says we should love with actions, not just words, and Galatians 5:13 says to serve others with love. What's one thing you can do, like sharing or helping, to show God's love to a friend or family member this week?

LOVE LEADER: We know what love is because we are recipients of God's love. It is because of God's love for us that God is preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

RESPONSE: When all else fails, love remains. When nothing else can help, love lifts us.

LEADER: In a world riddled with sorrow and grief, in a world overtaken by avarice and greed, in a world overcome with violence and evil, where can we turn?

RESPONSE: When all else fails, love remains. When nothing else can help, love lifts us.

LEADER: Restore us, O God, through the power of your love. Remind us of your love, which is unfailing and true. Inspire us toward the same. [Light the three purple candles and the pink candle.]

ALL: We light the candle of love and remember our commitment to community. Love has lifted us, and because of love we will lift each other. Amen.

With the first two purple candles and the pink candle already lit, and as you prepare to light the final purple candle called "The Love Candle", have one person read the "Leader" lines and others read the "Response" line. After the reading, light the final purple candle called "The Love Candle". Take a moment with your loved ones to discuss the love of Christ. He loved us so much, He saw our need from heaven and temporarily left His position of glory to come and serve us.

If you are using this as a personal devotional, read both parts and then light the final purple candle called "The Love Candle". Take a few moments of solitude to appreciate... how much God the Father loves us by sending His Son; how much the Son loves us by leaving His position in heaven to come and redeem us; how much love we are able to experience and be guided by the indwelling presence of the Spirit.

If you have small children, use the "Response" lines as a short prayer before you light the final purple candle. Enjoy the glow of the candle together in a quiet moment with your kiddos. Now reward the one who was the most attentive the joy of blowing out the candles.