

# The Love of God

Life Group Lesson 9/24/2023

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## Icebreaker

What is one thing your mother or father did to demonstrate their love for you? —OR—  
What is the difference between the love of a pet and the love of a person?

## Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?  
What struggles did you face?  
What can you share from your personal Bible reading?  
Where did you see God in your daily life?

## Step 2: GET FED

### Scripture

*1 John 4:7-12, 16 (ESV)* <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love.** <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us... <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

*John 3:16 (ESV)* <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*Romans 5:8 (ESV)* <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

*Romans 5:5 (ESV)* <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

*Romans 8:37-39 (ESV)* <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Ephesians 3:14-19 (ESV)* <sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)* <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup> and **raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might **show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

*1 John 3:1 (ESV)* <sup>1</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that **we should be called children of God**; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

### **Questions**

“God is love.” (1 John 4:8, 16) What does this mean? What does it mean for our lives?

How do we know God loves us? (1 John 4:9, 10; John 4:16; Rom 5:8)

How does God abide in us? (1 John 4:16) Is God abiding in me?

How do we get the love of God in our heart? (Rom 5:5) How do we get the Holy Spirit in us?

Do I have the Holy Spirit in me?

What can separate us from God’s love? (Rom 8:37-39) What should this mean for us?

When Paul prayed for the Ephesians to know the love of God, how did he describe God’s love? (Eph 3:14-19)

What blessings/benefits have we received because of God’s love? (Eph 2:4-7, 1 John 3:1)

What should be our response to God’s love? *1 John 4:10-11*

### **Step 3: GET ACTIVE**

Review the benefits we receive as a result of God’s love. Meditate on their meaning for and impact on our lives.

Demonstrate God’s love for us by loving someone in a practical action.