

**God's Story—Our Story**  
**Do You Love Me?**  
**First Christian Church—October 8, 2023**  
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**I love you this much!**

We like to hear the words, "I love you."  
But they lose their meaning if we don't see them in action.  
The Apostle John wrote: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech  
but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

**GOD's Story— Do You Love Me? John 21:15-19**

Agape ἀγαπη = selfless love demonstrated by action (concept absent in ancient Greek before N.T.)  
Phileo φιλεω = tender affection

1. Jesus: "Do you love (agape ἀγαπαζ) me?"  
Peter: "Yes Lord, you know that I love (phileo φιλω) you."  
Jesus: "Feed my lambs."
  
2. Jesus: "Do you love (agape ἀγαπαζ) me?"  
Peter: "Yes Lord, you know that I love (phileo φιλω) you."  
Jesus: "Take care of my sheep."
  
3. Jesus: "Do you love (phileo φιλειζ) me?"  
Peter: "Yes Lord, you know all things, you know that I love (phileo φιλω) you."  
Jesus: "Feed my sheep." ("BTW, You will honor me in your death.") "Follow me (anyway)."

Jesus: "OK Peter, we'll start where you are. If affection for me is all you can muster, we'll start there. I still love you! I still want you! But you're not getting out of the work—your calling—  
*Feed My Sheep!*"

**What did you discover in this story?** \_\_\_\_\_

**BIG Idea:**

Jesus will always meet you where you are, but he wants to take you to a new, higher place.  
Your love for him must be *agape*, demonstrated by obedience.  
He wants you to *feed his sheep*. Are you?

**Right On!**

Scripture Reading: John 10:7-16