

Advent - Love

Study Guide: “God’s Love – Sovereign, Sacrificial, & Personal” (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Key Scripture

Galatians 4:4-5 “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”
(The Word of God for the people of God.)

Three Core Truths About God’s Love

- **God’s Love is Sovereign**
 - It rules over all time and history; Christmas was not random or an act of frustration but part of God’s eternal plan.
 - Signposts throughout the Old Testament point to Jesus:
 - Genesis 3:15 – The offspring of the woman will crush the serpent’s head.
 - Genesis 22:18 – Through Abraham’s offspring, all nations will be blessed.
 - 2 Samuel 7:16 – David’s throne/kingdom established forever.
 - Micah 5:2 – Ruler from Bethlehem, origins from ancient times.
 - Jeremiah 33:15 – A righteous Branch from David’s line who will save Judah.
 - Quote: “God’s love doesn’t just span history. It shapes history according to his plan... all roads lead to Jesus.”
- **God’s Love is Sacrificial**
 - The Father sent His Son; the Son laid aside heavenly glory, was born humbly, and went to the cross.
 - Jesus came as a baby knowing the cost—on His way to the cross “for the joy set before him” (Hebrews 12:2).
 - Supporting prophecy: **Isaiah 53:2-5** – “He was pierced for our transgressions... by his wounds we are healed.”
 - Real love always costs something—denying self, bearing burdens, pain.
 - Quote: “God is a God who shows up... But do you see that in showing up, the only way in which he shows up, it is inherently sacrificial.”
- **God’s Love is Personal**
 - The purpose: “that we might receive adoption to sonship” (Galatians 4:4-5).
 - God touches one life at a time—calling ordinary people by name (Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Simeon, Anna).
 - He knows *your* name and invites you into the story.
 - Kintsugi illustration: Broken pieces are not discarded but mended with gold, creating greater beauty. Our broken lives are redeemed the same way.

- Quote: “What kind of love brings the godhead into the form of a baby... It’s the love of God who would adopt a barren woman and aged priests, teenage girls, night shift shepherds... and calls each of us by name.”

Application / Response

- Sit in, dwell in, and bask in this love. Let it realign your perspective, especially in seasons of frustration, anger, fear, or brokenness.
- Allow God’s love to transform your broken pieces into a testimony of beauty and redemption.
- Share this love: Invite others to experience it (e.g., Christmas Eve service).

Quotable Quotes

- “God’s love is sovereign. It is unstoppable. His word endures. His promise is guaranteed.”
- “The only reason [this dress] has any beauty is because God has taken the pieces of my life and he has brought it back together.”
- “You need to sit in it. You need to dwell in it. You need to be basking in it...”

Questions for Further Thought & Discussion

1. Which aspect of God’s love—**sovereign**, **sacrificial**, or **personal**—do you most need to remember right now, and why? How does Galatians 4:4-5 speak to your current circumstances?
2. Think about a “broken piece” in your life (a failure, hurt, or struggle). How might God be turning it into something beautiful through His love, like kintsugi?
3. Who is one person God has placed in your path this Christmas season that you could invite to experience His love (e.g., Christmas Eve service or personal conversation)?

Memory Verse: Galatians 4:4-5 **Prayer Focus:** Thank God for His pursuing love and ask Him to help you live as an adopted child who reflects that love to others.