

Main Idea: God's love for us is captivating and compelling in hopes that we will respond.

Series – Monuments

We are currently in a series of messages entitled "Monuments." Sometimes we need to be reminded of the foundational principles of our faith. If we could drive through the Bible or take one of those guided tours like you might in Washington DC, we would come upon one monument after another to our faith. We have visited Hope, Purpose, Gratitude, and Service. Today we have arrived at Love. God's love for us is captivating and compelling in hopes that we will respond.

Cultural Confusion

There is so much confusion in the culture regarding love. Maybe few respond to the love of God because they have never tasted true, divine, godly love. All they know is sex and infatuation that gives like heaven for a while and then hurts like hell!

Most Well-Known

It is no accident that the all-time famous, most-often quoted verse in the Bible is a verse about the love of God. Children can quote it. You will see it in the endzone of professional football games on TV. It has been graffitied on everything from truck stop bathroom walls to the subway lines of London and New York. This one verse is the Gospel in one sentence...*John 3:16*.

1. UNCONDITIONAL – "...God so loved the world..."

God loves a wayward world which not only failed to recognize its *Creator* (see *John 1:10*) but openly *hated His presence in it* (see *15:18*). That seems like a poor choice for love. Only Christianity dares to proclaim God's love is unconditional – unconditional love demonstrated in what we call "grace." And grace really has nothing to do with us, our inner resolve, or our lack of inner resolve; our failures or successes; our past, present, or future.

SACRIFICIAL – "...that He gave..."

How did God love us? Did He touch us? Did He make us feel good? No. He loved us by giving, by serving, by sacrificing. Only in sacrifice do we learn something important about the nature of true love.

VALUABLE – "...His one and only..."

Not only was God willing to give, but He was willing to give the only one He had. When you give up the only one you have, you become like the one you are trying to help – That's the Incarnation. God didn't have a spare. But He loved us so much that he was willing to give us the only one He had.

Family Night Big idea – Read John 3:5-17

- Elementary School – Ask, "How did God demonstrate His love for the world? What did He give us? How does His sacrifice prove how much God loves us?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "Why did God send Jesus into the world (v.16)? Why did He NOT send Jesus into the world (v.17)? How should we respond to God's gift? What keeps people from responding?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus. Our family wants to follow Him wholeheartedly. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meets this Wednesday, September 10th.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

The Lord's Prayer.....Matt Maher

Goodness of God.....Bethel

Mighty to Save.....Hillsong

Grandparents Day

All grandparents are invited to KidsJAM after the 9:30 service today for a celebration.

Kenya Christmas 2025 Donations

Thank you for your generosity!

KidsJAM Game Night

Wednesday, Sept. 17. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Savannah Bananas

If you purchased a ticket from the church, remember the game is October 2nd.

Velocity Ski Trip

Time to sign up online for Ski Trip on January 16-19, 2026.