5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

How Do We Love: Loving Those We Disagree With

Day 1: The Uncaused Love of God

Reading: 1 John 4:7-12

Devotional: God's love is unlike any love we have ever encountered. It does not wait for a reason to exist. It does not require that you earn it, deserve it, or maintain it. Long before you took your first breath, God loved you. Long after your worst failure, God loves you still. This is the foundation of everything. If we are going to learn to love people who frustrate us, who oppose us, or who wound us, we must first anchor ourselves in a love that was never caused by anything we did. Receive that love today. Let it settle deep. It is the only well deep enough to draw from when loving others feels impossible.

Reflection: In what area of your life have you been trying to earn God's love rather than simply receive it?

Application: Spend five minutes in silence today, simply receiving God's love without asking for anything or confessing anything. Just receive.

Day 2: Sincere Love in a Divided World

Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Devotional: The apostle Paul does not call us to tolerate people we disagree with. He calls us to genuinely love them. That is a far more demanding invitation. Sincere love costs something. It requires action, patience, and the willingness to move toward people who may not move toward you. Paul also reminds us that we are to hate what is evil while clinging to what is good. These are not contradictions. We can love a person deeply while grieving the sin that is destroying them. The target of our hatred is never the person. It is always the brokenness. That distinction changes everything about how we engage.

Reflection: Is there someone in your life you have been tolerating rather than genuinely loving? What would it look like to move toward them with sincere love?

Application: Identify one practical act of love you can extend this week toward someone with whom you are in conflict or tension.

Day 3: Grace and Truth Together

Reading: John 1:14-17 and John 8:1-11

Devotional: Jesus did not come full of truth alone, nor full of grace alone. He came full of both, at the same time, in perfect proportion. The woman caught in adultery experienced this firsthand. Jesus protected her from the violence of the crowd, but he did not send her away unchanged. He spoke truth into her life with such gentleness that it was an act of grace in itself. This is the model we are called to follow. Truth without grace wounds without healing. Grace without truth comforts without saving. When we hold both together, we become instruments of genuine transformation in the lives of people around us.

Reflection: Do you tend to lean more toward truth without grace, or grace without truth? What does that imbalance cost the people in your life?

Application: Before your next difficult conversation, pray specifically for the wisdom to know what truth needs to be spoken and the grace to speak it in a way that can actually be heard.

Day 4: Blessing Those Who Oppose You

Reading: Romans 12:14-21 and Matthew 5:43-48

Devotional: One of the most countercultural commands in all of Scripture is the call to bless those who persecute you. Not to retaliate. Not to respond in kind. Not to wait for an apology before extending forgiveness. Simply to bless. This is not weakness. It is one of the most spiritually demanding things a person can do. When you pray for someone who has hurt you, not that God would deal with them, but that God would heal whatever brokenness is driving their behavior, something shifts inside you. You release the weight of the offense. You release the expected outcome. You release the person into God's hands, and in doing so, you find your own freedom.

Reflection: Is there someone you need to release through forgiveness today? What are you holding onto that is costing you more than it is costing them?

Application: Write a prayer for someone who has hurt or opposed you. Pray it daily for the next seven days and notice what changes in your own heart.

Day 5: Love as Eternal Witness

Reading: John 13:34-35 and Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: Jesus told his disciples that the world would recognize them not by their theology, not by their church attendance, and not by their moral record, but by the way they loved one another. Every interaction you have carries eternal weight. The way you speak to the cashier, the way you treat a difficult coworker, the way you respond when someone wrongs you in public, all of it is a witness. People are watching to see if the love of God is real. And the most powerful evidence you can offer is not an argument. It is a life that reflects the uncaused, undeserved, unstoppable love of a God who sent His Son to die for people who gave Him no reason to.

Reflection: If the people in your daily life drew conclusions about God based solely on how you treated them this past week, what would they conclude?

Application: Choose one recurring interaction in your daily routine and commit to treating that moment as an opportunity for eternal witness. Be intentional, be present, and love without condition.