

## Surviving Winter—Love

### Connect

Who in your life has loved you with a really big love? How did that impact you?

Why do we need to know that God loves us?

### Dig

#### **Romans 8:35, 37-39 (NIV)**

“<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

#### **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

“<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

### Dig Deeper

#### **1. Read Romans 8:35, 37-39 and Romans 5:8.**

- In your own words, how do these verses describe God’s love?
- Look at the words God uses to illustrate the sovereignty (ultimate power) of His love. With which do you most identify? Why?
- Why is the cross our measurement of God’s love?

#### **2. Experience God’s Love**

- Describe a season when you faced hardship but were encouraged by God’s love.
- In his book, *Gospel*, JD Greear writes about God’s love, “In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make You love me more, and nothing I have done that makes You love me less.” How does this statement help you better understand God’s love?

### 3. Love Carries Us Through Struggle.

- Are there times when circumstances cause you to doubt God's love? If so, describe.
- Even though He loves us, struggle is not necessarily absent. How does knowing the depth of God's love for us help us through struggle?
- R.C. Sproul says, "We may feel at times that God has departed from us, but that is when we have to believe his Word rather than our feelings." What scriptures remind you most of God's love?
- How does God's work through Jesus on the cross give us confidence to go through struggle?
- How does knowing God's ultimate love for us change your perspective about life, circumstances, or struggles?

## Next Steps

1. What is your plan to know God's love more intimately?
2. What are ways we can foster God's love in our life group?
3. Pray through Ephesians 3:16-21 as a life group.

## New Testament Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Ephesians 4
Tuesday	Ephesians 5
Wednesday	Ephesians 6
Thursday	Philippians 1
Friday	Philippians 2