



LESSON 4 // THE LOVE THAT CHANGES US

Big Idea: Because of Jesus' great love for us, He calls us just as we are. Not when we are good enough or religious enough or worthy, but simply out of His heart of love for us. When we answer this call, He changes us by His love—we learn to love Him and others in His name.

Matthew 4:19 (NIV) *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."*

1 Peter 2:21 (NIV) *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

1 John 4:16, 18a (NLT) *We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ... Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.*

1 John 3:16 (NIV) *We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

Start Talking:

How has God's love for you, demonstrated especially through Jesus' suffering and death on the cross for your sins, changed your life?

Start Thinking:

Read Matthew 4:19. Why is it important to realize that Jesus calls you to follow Him "just as you are" and not when you are "good enough"?

Read 1 Peter 2:21. How does Jesus' suffering help us understand what it means to follow Him in a world that rejects Him?

Read 1 John 4:16-18. What does it mean to "trust in God's love"? What happens if we fail to do this?

Read 1 John 3:16. In what practical ways can we "give up our lives for our brothers and sisters" as followers of Jesus?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for opportunities to demonstrate God's love in tangible ways this week. Ask the Lord for the kind of patience and grace He has shown you to be evident in your interactions with others.