

Advent 2025

## Week 4: Love

How do we begin to describe the love of God?

We use that word—*love*—in so many ways. We love people and places, music and memories. Yet even the strongest human love is a shadow of something greater.

God's love is not fickle or fragile. It is faithful, steadfast, and everlasting. It is a love that pursues, protects, and provides. It is a love that knows each of us by name.

This is the fourth week of Advent—the final movement in our season of anticipation. We remember the love of a God who sent his only Son to save us. And we look forward to the day when we will experience the perfect fulfillment of that love.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God gives us a picture of his tender, shepherding love:

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

God's love is not distant or abstract. It is personal and protective. He gathers the weary, carries the wounded, and leads the vulnerable with gentleness.

Centuries later, Jesus revealed the just how far God would go to show us his love. Listen to John 10:14-15:

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

This love is not only tender—it is sacrificial. The Good Shepherd does not love from afar; he enters the valley, bears the weight, and lays down his life for his flock.

This is the love our hearts were created to know—a love that rescues, restores, and renews.

And one day, when Jesus comes again, that perfect love will be *all* we know—every fear gone, every wound healed, every heart made whole.

## Reflection

Let's take time to meditate on Jesus and anticipate his coming. After each question, press pause and reflect. Then answer by writing in your journal, talking to your family, or discussing with your community group.

1. How have you experienced the tender, shepherding love of Jesus?
2. What does it mean to you that the Good Shepherd knows you by name and laid down his life for you?
3. Where do you most need to be gathered, carried, or gently led by his love today?

## Prayer

As we pray together, let's rest in the arms of the Good Shepherd—the One whose love never fails.

*Jesus—Good Shepherd—you would leave ninety-nine to find one. We are caught up in the wonder of your love.*

*While we were sinners, you demonstrated your love in the greatest possible way—you laid down your life.*

*Your love is faithful, steadfast, and everlasting. Your love never fails.*

*And we long for the day when your perfect love becomes all we know.*