

God's Love: Lesson 2

DAY 1

We determined last week that love isn't just a characteristic of God, it's His very character. While we know this because the Bible says it's so, we also know this because God demonstrated this love to us by sending Christ.

Think about a time you received something because you earned it. Maybe you did a special job and earned some money. Maybe it was a special gift your parents bought for you because you earned certain grades. It could be a trophy you earned by performing well in a competition of some sort.

Now think about a time when you were surprised with a gift for no reason. It was not for your birthday, Christmas, or any holiday. You didn't perform well to earn it. This was a gift given to you just because someone loved you and wanted to show it.

How are these two gifts different? Do you see them differently knowing you earned one in your own power and one had nothing to do with your performance?

Go back and read the following verses from this week's Bible study: **John 3:16-17** and **Romans 5:6-8**. Take a moment to think about how amazing this love is! God loved each of us so much that He made the greatest sacrifice to have a relationship with us!

Something To Think About . . .

- John 3:16 tells us that receiving the fullest expression of this love, eternity in heaven, happens when we believe in God and place our faith in Christ. Is this something you've done?
- If you have, take a moment to pray and thank God for this love.
- If you haven't, you can pray right now asking God to forgive your sins and receive His gift of love! If you do, make sure you let someone know (your parents, small group leader, or youth minister). They can help you with any questions you may have.

DAY 2

Here's something fun to do: Without worrying about what it looks like, and without stopping to "self edit," take 60 seconds to write how God's amazing love makes you feel. Use the space below, use a Note app on your phone, or use a scrap piece of paper. Whatever you use, enjoy thinking about how great God's love is.

Ready? Go!

DAY 3

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
— Romans 8:35

Have you ever heard of Mount Chimborazo? It is Ecuador, in the Andes. While Mount Everest is the highest point above sea level, Mount Chimborazo is the highest point on earth when measured from the center of the earth. It stands 1.5 miles taller than Everest from this point!

The lowest known point on the earth is Challenger Deep, at the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. It is 35,797 feet below sea level and about 3,956 miles from the center of the earth!

The distance between the highest height and deepest depth is 7,923 miles! You would have to drive from San Francisco, California to New York, New York 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ times to cover this distance. It would take days to make this drive!

There may be times in your life when you feel like the distance between you and God is even further than this.

But take a moment and read Romans 8:35-39.

According to these verses, is there anything that can remove us from God's love? Absolutely not! God's love is greater than any depth or height. It's more dependable than the present or anything that may happen in the future.

When we've placed our faith in Christ, we've secured God's love for all of our lives. We're bound to God by Christ and nothing can change that. What an incredible thing! But not only are you secure, you are different. You have a new identity. You carry this love of Christ in you and can offer it to those around you who do not have it.

Something To Think About . . .

- How well do you know the students you go to school with? Do you know if they've experienced the love God offers?
 - Your challenge is to pray for them, and to pray that you might have the opportunity to talk with them about the love God has for them.
 - Will you take this challenge this week?
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DAY 4

Soak this quote in:

"That God should pity the world I understand, because when I walk down a hospital and see a sick child, I pity the child ... but that God should *love* the world — the more I think about it, the more staggered I am." — *F. B. Meyer*

Can you relate to what the author is saying here? What's the difference between pity and love? What about the world is unlovable?

When was the last time you were "staggered" by God? Maybe you should spend more time really pondering how awesome God is. Being staggered is a good thing!

DAY 5

End this week by focusing on this verse as you go through your day:

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. — Psalms 100:5

How might this promise help you make it through the tough times? How might it give you a boost when things are going good?