

# LOVE LIFE AGAIN *by tracie miles*

#P31OBS

## Week 6

Bible Study Companion Leader: Wendy Blight



Hey OBSers, I can't believe we've reached the last week of our study. Our team has enjoyed walking through *Love Life Again* with you. When we close our time together, the desire of my heart is that your journey doesn't end there. That's why I've written this Directed Prayer Time for this lesson.

Work through this at your own pace. This particular Bible Study Companion lesson is not meant to be a one-day assignment. It's intended to be your next step on your journey to a deeper, richer relationship with Jesus. A way to continue the work God's been doing in your heart. Through the Word shared on these pages, my prayer is you'll draw closer to your Creator, grow deeper in your understanding of the Scriptures, and continue intimate dialogue with your Savior.

**Today's Focus:** Reigniting our faith through a directed prayer time.

Find a quiet place with a cozy chair. Bring your Bible, notebook, pen and an expectant heart. Invite the Holy Spirit to join you. Then listen, watch and wait for Him to speak and work in and through your time in the Word.

### Jesus is the Word

Take a few minutes to read and ponder John's words about Jesus shared below.

- *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:1-5, NIV).*
- *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we*



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*have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete” (1 John 1:1-4, NIV).*

Jesus is God’s revelation of Himself. John, the author of the Gospel of John and 1 John, tells us Jesus is “*the Word*” and “*the Word of life.*” What do these passages mean to you? Journal your thoughts in the lines below or in your own journal or notebook.

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John had an intimate, personal relationship with Jesus. He believed Jesus was who He said He was. He knew Jesus loved him. John gave his heart to Jesus. Devoted his life to Jesus. Trusted Jesus.

Do you have this same kind of relationship with our Lord and Savior? If you do, take time to thank Jesus for the amazing relationship you have. If you don’t have this kind of relationship with Jesus, or walking with Jesus is new to you, take time to read through these Scriptures (John 10:10, 14:6; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 1:13-14) and journal your thoughts below or in your own journal or notebook.

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**A Reminder of God’s Lavish Love for You**

Read through the passages and verses below and jot down a few things you learn from each one about God’s love.

Psalms 139:1-12

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Isaiah 53

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Jeremiah 31:3

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John 3:16

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Romans 8:1, 31-39

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1 John 1:8-9

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Sit with these passages for a few minutes more. Invite God to enable you to truly receive His unfailing love ... to know how high and wide and deep His love is for you. Journal your thoughts below or in your own journal or notebook.

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**The Story of Jesus' Sacrificial Love for You**

Jesus ... God's one and only Son ... willingly left the wonder of heaven to step into the wretchedness of earth. Without hesitation, He confined Himself to a womb and cloaked Himself in flesh. He learned obedience as He grew from a boy to a man.

At age 30, Jesus stepped into His calling, knowingly subjecting Himself to a life of poverty, hostility and persecution. The very humans He created arrested and stripped Him. Twisted together a crown of thorns and forced it upon His head. They knelt before Him, mocking Him: "*Hail, King of the Jews*" (Matthew 27:29, NIV).



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The Roman soldiers beat and tortured our beloved Savior. Finally, when He could barely stand, they led Him away to crucify Him. There they lay His wounded and weakened body on the cross. They stretched out His arms and drove spikes into His wrists and His feet.

At noon, darkness fell over the land. The Son of God cried out, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Matthew 27:46, NIV) In that moment, the Temple curtain ripped in two from top to bottom. The earth shook. Rocks split. Tombs broke open. Then the precious Lamb of God cried out with His last breath, *“Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit”* (Luke 23:46, NIV).

Oh, friend, you must know, God could’ve stopped this scene. Jesus could’ve lifted Himself off the cross, but He *chose* not to because He saw *your* name ... *your* sin ... and knew the price of that sin was death.

### **Pray this prayer:**

*Lord, Your Word tells me that going through the motions, simply saying the words, is not enough. You desire a heart fully submitted to You. Father, as I sit with You now, break my heart for what breaks Yours.*

*I confess my sin before You in this quiet place, especially \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*Thank You that Your Word promises that when I confess my sin, You’re faithful and just to take away my sin and remember it no more. Thank You for Your promise that You will not condemn me because I have committed with all my heart to love and follow You. Even when I mess up, and I will, I need only come to You, confess my sin and ask forgiveness.*

*I’m so very grateful You don’t see my sin; You see me through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. My past sins are forgotten. I start fresh with You. You’ve washed me white as snow; my sins are as far away as the east is from the west! Today I receive and celebrate this forgiveness and ask You to help me live in the fullness of all that Your salvation purchased for me. I pray this in Jesus’ name. AMEN.*



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Do you understand the depth of Jesus' love for you, the depth of the sacrifice He made for you? Thank Him for His love and for the gift of Jesus below.

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### **The Gift of New Life**

As if forgiveness wasn't enough, God gave us another precious gift. The gift of eternal life.

Three days after Jesus' crucifixion, a few women went to visit the tomb. While standing there, a violent earthquake shook the ground, terrifying the women. Before their eyes, an angel of the Lord descended from heaven ... his appearance like lightning ... his clothes white as snow. He rolled back the stone.

Hallelujah! The tomb was empty.

Death could not hold our Savior!

The angel of the Lord reassured the women, *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay"* (Matthew 28:5-6, NIV).

The One who called Himself the Resurrection and the Life was indeed alive!

Over the next days and weeks, the resurrected Jesus appeared to His friends. At the appointed time, Jesus led them away to a quiet place, lifted His hands toward heaven and spoke blessings over His friends. And then, before their very eyes, they watched as God the Father took His one and only Son up to heaven to take His



rightful place at God’s right hand where He now intercedes for you as your Great High Priest (Luke 24:50-52, see also Hebrews 4:14-16).

Sit for a few minutes with the disciples in this place. Ponder what these divine appointments must have been like for the women and the disciples. My friend, divine appointments don’t end with the Gospels. Jesus, through the presence and power of His Holy Spirit, is ready and waiting to meet with you! You need only ask. Invite Him to meet with you. To show you His presence. To speak to your heart. He is waiting.

**The Gift of the Holy Spirit**

Invite God into the next few minutes as you spend time soaking in these words sent from God’s heart to yours. After you finish prayerfully reading these passages, journal your thoughts below or in your own journal or notebook.

a. Ezekiel 36:26-27

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b. John 14:15-18

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c. John 16:12-15

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d. Galatians 5:22-26

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e. 2 Timothy 1:7

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Jesus kept His promise to His disciples that He'd send the Spirit of Truth to help us and be with us forever. Do you know the joy of living fully in the power and presence of the living God in you? Speak to the Spirit and ask Him to fill you with the fullness of His love, presence and power at this moment ... to know how wide and high and deep and long His love is ... to know His peace that passes all understanding ... to know His joy inexplicable ... to receive all God has for you.



**Draw Near to God**

Are there times God’s felt distant? Maybe it’s right now for you. Oh, friend, I’ve felt that too. Wondering if He even hears my cries. Considers my prayers. In fact, it’s what led me to write this guided prayer time. I needed to feel the presence of my Savior. To experience His deep and abiding love. To know the fullness of His power at work in me. Read through these passages for reassurance about the unchanging character of our God and our relationship with Him.

- a. Psalm 63:1-8
  
- b. Proverbs 2:1-11
  
- c. Isaiah 40:28-31
  
- d. Isaiah 55:1-3, 6
  
- e. Jeremiah 29:10-14
  
- g. James 4:7-8

What do you cling to that keeps you from fully trusting God and surrendering to Christ? What keeps you from seeking hard after God’s wisdom and His understanding? Ask Him to take it from you now. Do these verses help you trust God more? How?

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**Draw Near to His Word**

Take time each day to step away from the busyness of life and into the pages of God’s Word. Invite Him to minister to your heart and enlighten your mind. Trust Him to provide manna for each day. Begin with these passages.

- a. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- b. Joshua 1:7-9
- c. Psalm 1:1-6
- d. Proverbs 3:1-8
- e. Proverbs 4:20-27
- f. 2 Timothy 2:15

Journal your thoughts below or in your own journal or notebook. Which ones spoke to you the most? Why? Choose one or two to memorize and keep hidden in your heart to remind you of this precious time you’ve spent with the Lord.

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Hey, there!

You made it through the last Bible Study Companion lesson, but we hope your time soaking in the Word and digging into your Bible doesn't stop here.

We have so enjoyed walking alongside you through what we've learned in *Love Life Again*. We've talked about forgiveness, learned how to do a character study, replaced lies with Truth and so much more.

We know the Bible skills you learned here are keys to help you love YOUR life again. And that, my friend, is worth celebrating. We're cheering you on as you continue to study God's Word.

Thank you for spending your time with us and remember, when you know the Truth and live the Truth, it changes everything.

*Kendra, Wendy, Sarah and Katrina*