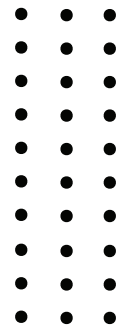


# WHAT IS LOVE



READING PLAN



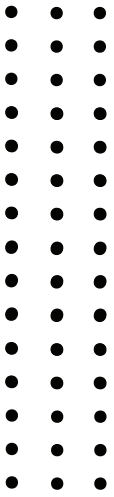


WEEK 1

# God's Love



# GOD'S LOVE



## Watch Video

### DAY 1:

Have you ever had an intense craving for something? Whether it's fast food or fashion, once we really want something, that craving is all we can think about until we get what we desire. The crazy part is that once we satisfy one craving, it's not long until another one pops up. And so the cycle begins again!

There's only one thing that's worth craving and that satisfies forever: God's love. Today you'll read a Psalm that describes David's intense desire for more of God's presence, peace, and love.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. David compares his longing for God to a physical thirst. What kinds of things do you thirst for? Has pursuing those longings ever led you to disappointment? According to this Psalm, what does a craving for God lead to?
2. Have you ever experienced God providing for your needs or helping you in a time of trouble? Pause to remember and praise God for his protection, presence, and love.
3. David says God's love is "better than life," meaning it brings him more joy and comfort than anything the world offers. Does God's love bring you more joy than anything else? If you've never felt joy when worshipping or praying, ask God to give you the desire to know him more. Trust that his love for you is enough to satisfy your deepest cravings.



## Read Psalm 63

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# GOD'S LOVE



## Watch Video

### DAY 2:

When you think about what God is like, what comes to mind? Maybe you immediately think of his power or his wisdom. Maybe it's his strength or his might. The Bible tells us that first and foremost, God is known for his incredible love for us. His very nature is one of loving relationship because God has eternally existed as three people: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the Bible tells us they've spent all of eternity loving and glorifying one another.

When Jesus came to earth, his obedience to God and sacrificial death were another picture of God's love. And as his followers, Jesus calls us to live a life of love, too.

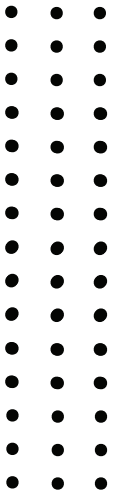
More than our knowledge, power, or strength, our love for God and others should characterize everything we do.



## Read 1 Corinthians 13

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What characteristics do you think our society values most? Beauty? Intelligence? Talent? Wealth? How is this different from what God says is most valuable?
2. Reread the section on "love is patient, love is kind..." and replace the word "love" with "Jesus." How does Jesus fulfill every definition of love in this passage?
3. Which of those definitions (patient, kind, not jealous, not irritable, etc.) is hardest for you to fulfill? Pause and ask God to help you be loving in this area.



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# GOD'S LOVE



## Watch Video

### DAY 3:

When sin entered the world, it broke everything beautiful, including our understanding of love. In the world's eyes, "love" is just a feeling that centers on meeting our own needs, instead of a choice to meet the needs of others.

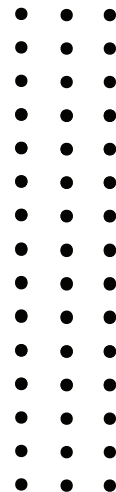
God's love is radically different: it's not just about me and what I want; it's about God and what he wants for me. Loving others means obeying God and seeking the well-being of the people around me. It might not sound romantic, but according to the Bible, it's the only path to true joy. And if I'm not loving this way, I have to ask myself: do I even know God?



## Read 1 John 4:7-21

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. This passage says that perfect love casts out fear. What motivates you to obey God? Do you obey God out of fear or love? How would a shift in your perspective change your relationship with God and others?
2. Describe the connection between loving God and loving others. Is one possible without the other?
3. Is there anyone you struggle to love? Ask God to help you show love to that person. Look for practical ways you can demonstrate love to them this week.



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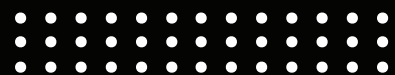
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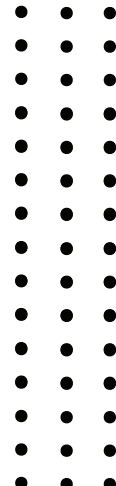


WEEK 2

# The World's Love



# THE WORLD'S LOVE



## Watch Video

### DAY 1:

“It’s not my fault!” “He made me do it!” “I couldn’t help it!” Do any of those statements sound familiar to you?

When we’re caught doing something wrong, we often try to look around for someone or something else to blame.

But the Bible teaches that all sin has one source: the human heart. While our environments, circumstances, and our friends can definitely influence us and set the stage for sin, what surrounds us is not to blame; what’s inside of us is.



## Read

**Jeremiah 17:9,  
Proverbs 15:12,  
Mark 7:20-23,**

## Ezekiel 36:25-27

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What circumstances or people have you tried to blame for your own sin? How have these passages changed your thinking? Take some time to confess your sin to God and thank him for his forgiveness.
2. Our culture says things like, “follow your heart.” How do these Scriptures describe the heart? Are our feelings a trustworthy source?
3. Because sin has warped our desires, we can no longer trust them. Who or what can you trust? Ask God to give you new desires that line up with his will for your life. Thank God for giving you a new heart, and ask him to help you love others like he does.

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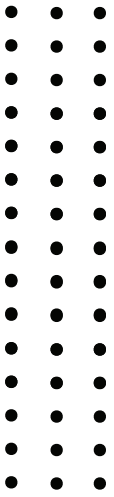
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# THE WORLD'S LOVE



## Watch Video

### DAY 2:

From princesses to superheroes, our culture preaches the virtues of finding strength from within and following your heart. But the Bible's message is dramatically different: our hearts are corrupt and therefore misleading.

That's the bad news. The good news: God's love for us changes everything, including our hearts.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the passage describe life without God? Can you relate to some of those descriptions and feelings?
2. What changed things for the people who were once foolish and disobedient? How are they now described?
3. Because of God's kindness, love, mercy, forgiveness, and generosity, those who were once slaves to sin have confidence in eternal life. His love changes everything! How would remembering God's grace in your life change the way you relate to God and others?



## Read

### Titus 3:3-8

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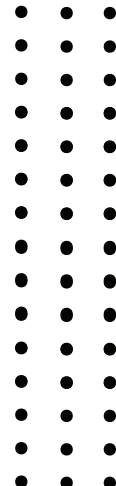
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# THE WORLD'S LOVE



## Watch Video

### DAY 3:

Almost every elementary school student learns about caterpillars and butterflies: how a creepy-crawly creature cocoons itself and emerges as a beautiful, fluttering butterfly.

Even though it spent the first half of its life crawling from leaf to leaf, once it transforms, the butterfly never goes back to crawling again. Why would it, when it's been transformed to fly?

In the same way, God transformed us into new creatures and calls us to live differently now that we belong to him. God's love replaces our old desires and ways of doing things and gives us a new, more satisfying way to live.



## Read Romans 12

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. God is calling us to different behaviors, but don't miss this point: first, he will change how we think! Why is it essential to start with what's inside of us, not just what we do on the outside?
2. Of all the new behaviors the passage describes, which one is most challenging to you? Take some time to confess your sin in this area and ask God to continue to transform you.
3. Living God's way means being totally different from the culture around us. Does the idea of standing out and being different excite you or scare you? Why or why not? Take all of those feelings to the Lord and ask him to strengthen you to live for him.

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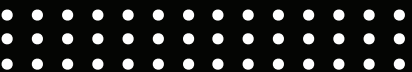
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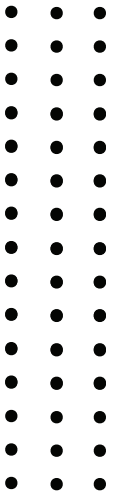


WEEK 3

# **How Do We Love God?**



# HOW DO WE LOVE GOD?



## Watch Video

### DAY 1:

Think of all the responsibilities that fill your time: schoolwork, chores, sports practice, babysitting siblings, a part-time job...your to-do list can sometimes feel endless!

Now imagine that instead of thinking of those responsibilities as things you “have” to do, you started thinking of them as things you “get” to do.

“Have to” vs. “get to.” One simple word changes everything! We stop thinking of homework and schoolwork and jobs and sports as tasks; they become opportunities to learn, practice, and grow.

In the same way, reading the Bible isn’t something you HAVE to do; it’s actually something you GET to do. God created you for a relationship with him, and the time you spend in his Word is an opportunity to know him and experience joy. Even if you don’t feel it today, your time with God can become something you look forward to and enjoy.



## Read Psalm 119:9-16

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What emotions does the writer feel toward God and his laws? Have you ever felt those emotions toward God? Do you know anyone who has?
2. Is reading the Bible a “have to” or “get to” in your life right now? To put it another way, do you see it as a chore or something you enjoy? If it feels like a burden to you, don’t feel guilty; only God can give us a heart to love and enjoy him. Ask God to cultivate this kind of heart in you.
3. Sometimes we have to “do” before we “feel.” What practical action steps can you take as you ask God to give you joy in his presence? Maybe it’s committing to reading the Bible before you check your social media accounts or asking a friend to hold you accountable. Ask God to give you wisdom in this area.

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# HOW DO WE LOVE GOD?



## Watch Video

### DAY 2:

“God loves you just the way you are.”

Have you ever heard that phrase? In one sense, it’s true--while we were still sinners, God loved us first and sent Jesus to die for us.

But in another sense, that statement is incomplete. God loves us just the way we are, but he doesn’t leave us that way.

God’s perfect love doesn’t just accept us as we are. God’s perfect love seeks to transform us into the fullness of who he made us to be.

This process of transformation is called “sanctification,” which is a theological term that means “being made holy.”

We don’t try to be holy to earn God’s love. We already have it! God’s love enables us to become holy and gives us the desire to become holy, too.

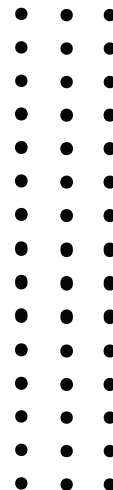


## Read

### 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How does this passage describe the relationship between holiness and salvation? Which one comes first? Why is that important to recognize?
2. What does a “holy” life look like, according to this passage? How does God want us to relate to him, others, and ourselves? Which area do you find most challenging?
3. Is there anything in your life that’s holding you back from pursuing holiness? What do you need to do with those things? Ask God for his wisdom and help in saying “no” to sin and “yes” to holiness. Remember, God’s strength is the driving force behind our sanctification, not our own. We get to participate with him in the process. Everything God calls us to, he also equips us for, and he completed it all in the person of Jesus. We look forward to his return so that we can experience perfect holiness! Take some time to thank God for his work in your life and ask him to continue to guide you as you seek to honor him.



# HOW DO WE LOVE GOD?



## Watch Video

### DAY 3:

When we choose to follow Jesus, we're embarking on a journey to become more like him. That journey can look different for everyone; there's no "one size fits all" process for sanctification.

God might call some people into full-time ministry, while others have careers in the marketplace. Some people will get married and raise children, while others will remain single.

Our culture might elevate some positions over others, but the Bible teaches that no profession or marital status is "holier" than another. All that matters is that we seek God's will for every decision and ask ourselves, "Will this relationship help me serve the Lord better?"

No matter where you find yourself in life, young or old, a student or professional, married or single, you have an opportunity to live a life of holiness that pleases God right now.

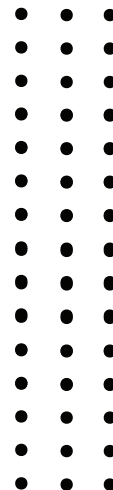
And even though it may be hard to see now, the life that pleases God will ultimately bring you joy, too, no matter what your job or marital status turns out to be.

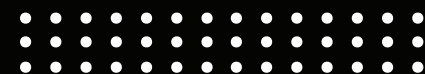


## Read I Corinthians 7:32-35

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

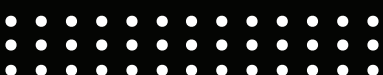
1. Have you ever thought of a stage of life or marital status as "holier" or better than another? How does this passage challenge your thinking?
2. How would you respond to someone's opinion that obeying God is too restrictive? In what ways is pursuing holiness freeing?
3. Are you clinging to a desire or plan for your life? Take that desire to the Lord in prayer. Ask him to give you a willing and obedient heart to follow wherever he leads. Echo the author's words in prayer: "Lord, help me serve you in the best way I can, with as few distractions as possible."



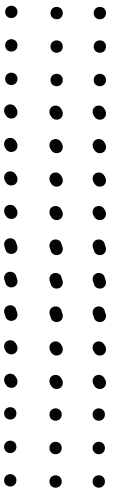


WEEK 4

# How Do We Love Others?



# HOW DO WE LOVE OTHERS?



## Watch Video

### DAY 1:

remind yourself to be nice to someone who is always nice to you or to speak kindly to someone who shares your point of view. Love is effortless when we like and agree with another person.

But what about the people who aren't nice to us? The ones who disagree with us, make fun of us, or leave us out?

Our culture says to cut them off, "cancel" them, and tune them out.

But the Bible says something totally different!

Jesus calls us to do something completely unnatural, something that requires supernatural help: loving others, including our enemies. This kind of radical love is how we obey God, and it marks us as his followers. The world can't help but notice that kind of radical love. God already loves you that way—will you commit to loving others like he does?



## Read

### Romans 13:8-10

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think it's so important for Christians to show love to others? How does loving everyone, even our enemies, reflect what Christ has done for us? What does it show the world?
2. In our culture, "love me," has come to mean "agree with me." What are some ways you could show love to people, even if you don't agree with their beliefs, politics, or lifestyle?
3. Is there a person or group of people you struggle to love? Ask God to help you take practical steps toward loving them. Ask God to renew your mind so that you begin to see each person you interact with as a beloved part of God's creation.

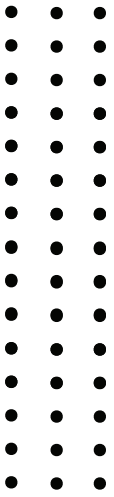
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# HOW DO WE LOVE OTHERS?



## Watch Video

### DAY 2:

Why do people get married? The most common answer you'll probably hear is that people believe marriage will make them happy. But what if God designed marriage not just for our happiness but for our holiness?

Maybe it doesn't sound romantic, and it's certainly not the only way to become more holy, but God designed marriage to be a picture of Jesus' love for us. Love within a marriage is sacrificial; it puts others first and seeks the good of the other person. When we see marriage this way, we appreciate it as a tool God will use to make us more like him.



## Read Ephesians 5:21-33

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Think about how marriage is described in this passage. How is it different from what our culture portrays marriage to be?
2. God designed sex as a gift for husbands and wives to enjoy. What makes marriage the safest, most fulfilling context for sex?
3. Is the way you relate to the opposite sex now preparing you for the kind of marriage you want to have in the future? Ask God to help you as you pursue purity and genuine love in your relationships with others.

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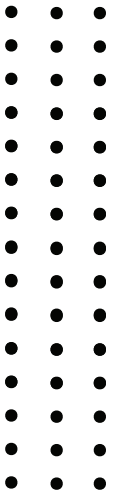
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# HOW DO WE LOVE OTHERS?



## Watch Video

### DAY 3:

The gospel is this: that Christ died to free us from the chains of sin and resurrected to offer us new life. God doesn't just accept us the way we are; he wants to transform us into holy people. And one of the key markers of our holiness is our love for others.

“Love” isn't an optional character trait for Christians. It's not only for mature believers or people who have a certain personality.

Showing love to others is a command, and our relationships prove whether or not we really understand and believe God's Word.

Think about it this way: if you don't love other people, you can't claim to love God.

Harsh? Too hard? Maybe on its own. Remember, though: Jesus already loves you this way. You have his power and presence working in you as you seek to love others! What he calls you to do, he will equip you to do. And the world will take notice!



## Read 1 John 2:7-11

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus lived the truth of the commandment to love one another. Why is it important to focus on Christ's attitude and example as we obey?
2. What do you think the world notices most about Christians these days? How can we do our part to make sure it's love for God and others?
3. As we close this series on love, take some time to reflect on your relationship with God and others. Can you begin to grasp the depth of God's love for you? Do your relationships reflect this amazing love? Are there any changes you need to make to love others more sacrificially and authentically? Ask God to show you how you can love others the way he loves them.

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# WHAT IS LOVE



FOR MORE RESOURCES VISIT [FEED.BIBLE](https://feed.bible)

