

GOD IS LOVE

Discipleship Guide #13/14

TODAY'S GOAL

- Help the student(s) to truly see and choose to believe the attribute of God as love, love as God defines it, and understand what that means for their life.

OPEN IN PRAYER

- Pray together and ask God to prepare your hearts to hear from His Word today.

EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S ATTRIBUTES

- Set the foundation for why you are studying the attributes of God. First, read **2 Pet 3:18** together. Then, in your own words, explain the following truth: *what we believe changes how we live* (feel free to share an example). *Therefore, what we believe about God will change the way we think, speak, and act.* Finally, share with your student(s) one way you were change by a growing trust/belief in the character of God during a particular moment of your life. Maybe resting in His sovereignty brought you through a deep depression or growing in understanding of His personability deepened your prayer life. This will give them tangible hope to change themselves!

GET TO KNOW WHERE YOUR STUDENT(S) IS AT

- Start this time by discussing the following questions: **What is the biggest demonstration of love that you've seen someone do or give or live out? What was it? What made you realize it was an act of love? Leader, share your own answer too.**
- Explain to your student(s) that the world around us has a lot of ways of defining love. Love is two people having feelings for each other, love is acceptance, love is enjoyment, love is equal, love is.....you name it. Then discuss the questions: **How have you heard love described? How would you describe it yourself?**
- Read the following three key Scriptures together and simply discuss together how God, the author of this universe and the epitome of love, describes love?
 - **1 Corinthians 13:4-7; John 15:13; and Proverbs 3:11-12.**
- Lastly, explain to the student(s) that when we consider God's attribute of love it helps to consider His other attributes that are true at the same time to better complete our understanding of God as love. For example, when we consider God's omniscience, or knowing everything, with His love it can encourage us that God says he loves us even when he knows the worst part of our lives. Then discuss: **What are some other attributes of God that help us deepen our understanding of how great God's love is?**

SEE WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY ABOUT HIMSELF

- Read each of the following key Scriptures and simply discuss the following questions after each scripture: **What do you learn about God in these passages? How did God demonstrate His love?**
 - **1 John 4:7-10,16; Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-10.**

- Discuss: **What must it have been like for Jesus and the Father to live out this act of love for us? What do you think would have been hard?**
 - Some example answers are as follows: A father sacrificing his precious son to die. A sacrifice for people who had already turned their backs on God and would keep turning their back a million times more each time they sin. A son walking to a death where he would be ridiculed and tortured until his body gave out. A holy and perfect God, Jesus, taking on sin, shame, and the wrath of God that comes with the sacrifice to the point that he sweat blood the night before the crucifixion.

DISCUSS HOW WE CHANGE IN LIGHT OF GOD'S ALL-KNOWLEDGINGNESS

- Explain to the student(s) how so far you have learned that God is love, how he demonstrated His love in the gospel, and how God describes love in His Word. Then, discuss the following question: **Do you truly believe that God is love and love as He describes?**
- Explain how for a lot of us it's tough to believe that God is love. Then, discuss the following question: **Is there anything that makes you doubt God's love? What is it?** Take some time to let the student(s) think and share their heart here. Truly believing God's love is pivotal in our life, but sometimes there's a barrier in our heart or mind that is making us doubt God's love. Taking some time to listen here can open up an opportunity to encourage and share truth into that area. Below are some possible answers and some verses that you can look to as resources depending on what the student(s) shares.
 - Shame: **Romans 8:1&15, Galatians 2:20**. Suffering: **1 Peter 5:10, John 16:33, 2 Corinthians 4:17** (consider Jesus' suffering, he's walked the path before us trusting God's love). They feel unlovable: **Psalms 136:23, Romans 5:6-8, Zephaniah 3:17**.
- Discuss the following questions: **How does knowing God's love change the way you think and live day to day? How does what we learned today enter into a specific situation or heart struggle in your life today? How does it change your relationship with God? How does it change your relationship with others?** In respect to how much time you have, consider walking through some or all of the of the below verses for some additional content on how God's love changes our life.
 - **1 John 4:18** (no fear); **Romans 8:35, 37-39** (security); **Psalms 5:11-12 & Psalm 31:7** (rejoice in hard times); **Lamentations 3:20-23** (continuing to hope); **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** (strength to live how God calls us to); **Romans 5:5 & Galatians 5:22-23** (growing love for others not according to their response but because of the holy spirit in us); **Proverbs 3:11-12** (appreciate discipline/conviction as God's loving discipline).
- End this time by circling back to the biggest demonstration of love that you talked about at the start of the time together and speak the following truth into your student's life: *God's love is personal and immensely bigger than any kind of love we have experienced on this earth. He knows you better than anyone else in the whole world and loves you enough to send His son to die for you and adopt you as His child.*

CONSIDER OPTIONAL HOMEWORK: <https://1drv.ms/w/s!An5ireFvcG7q-EE1iByvIFk0UyXB>

CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Read through Ephesians 3:14-19 and pray with the student(s) to understand God's love and let the truth of God's love change their heart and life.

We would love your feedback on this lesson! Click the link or scan the QR code.

