John 2

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.' This is the first and most important command… And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' … All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Spirit Empowered Faith

Day 1

L-3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.

I. Love the Lord Your God… How might this text lead me to better love God? "We love because He first loved us." (1 Jn 4:19) We can only love with all our "heart, soul, mind, and strength" the REAL God.

A. As you read and reflect on the chapter, how might you describe the "REAL" God as He is seen as Father, Son, and Holy Spirt?

1. In verse _____ He is seen as _____
_____

2. In verse _____ He is seen as _____
_____

3. In verse _____ the love of Jesus is seen toward _____ as He
_____

4. In verse _____ the love of Jesus is seen toward _____ as He
_____

5. How might the above insights challenge some of your misconceptions of God? "Sadly, I sometimes mistakenly see God as _____."

Spirit Empowered Faith

Day 2

W-1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.

B. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8): The REAL God described above wants to relate to you as you described Him above; pause to let Him love you.

1. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who _____, my heart is moved with _____

2. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who _____, my heart is moved with _____

C. Jesus is available to love you like we read of His love in this chapter. Pause to express your heart to Him as you see Him in this chapter.

1. Describe how Jesus has loved you in some of the same ways that you read of His love in this chapter: "I have experienced the love of Jesus as He has _____

2. Jesus, as you love me like you loved those in this chapter, my heart is touched with _____

John 2

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.' This is the first and most important command… And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' … All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Spirit Empowered Faith
Day 3

P-5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the Church.

II. Love Your Neighbor… How might this text lead me to better love others, both those who follow Jesus and those who don't know Him? "Love one another even as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Since we have freely received of His love, we are to freely give this same love to others; consider again how you see love portrayed in this chapter.

A. Who among your family or friends might you better love?

1. I could better love_____ especially by _____

Spirit Empowered Faith
Day 4

M-1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community.

B. Notice again how Jesus expressed love by accepting, forgiving or sacrificing? How might Jesus have taken initiative, expressed compassion or offered support? How did Jesus share truth and eternal hope?

1. Who in the traffic patterns of your life might benefit from receiving the blessing of Christ's love through you? *(who)*_____could benefit from my sharing the love of Jesus by _____

2. Who in your life could benefit from sharing part of your life story of encountering truth and eternal hope? *(who)*_____could benefit from sharing more about _____

3. Pause now to pray for this person and then yourself as you impart both your life and the gospel.

Spirit Empowered Faith
Day 5

L-4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as "His Beloved."

III. "As you love yourself" your significance, value and worth have been established by your creator through the gift of His Son. How might this text affirm your identity as His "beloved"?

"This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His only Son into the world to give us life through Him." (1 John 4:9)

Celebrate how you have received His love and grace, His forgiveness and new life, His calling and kingdom purpose.

A. Re-read the text as His truth being shared just for you.

1. I'm grateful that I have experienced the blessing of verse _____ as I _____

B. Since He is the same yesterday, today, and forever meditate on you being "in" the story of this chapter; allow Him to love you as you read of His love in the chapter.

1. My heart is touched with gratitude that Jesus _____
_____

John 2

Experience Scripture

"Whatever Jesus tells you, make sure that you do it!" (John 2:5)

SPIRIT EMPOWERED *Faith*

M-2

Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared.

What an awesome key to life abundant and a life pleasing to the Lord! This was the simple secret of Jesus' love for the Father. Nowhere in Scripture does it speak of the Father obeying the Son but uniquely the Son loves the Father by "doing whatever the Father asks."

Jesus would describe His own love of His Father with these words: "I am doing exactly what the Father destined for me to accomplish, so that the world will discover how much I love my Father." (John 14:31)

The Son loves the Father by *yielding* to the Father's every word and so it's to be with His followers. Sometimes His speaking is through His Word or a fellow disciple; sometimes He speaks in prayer and at other times it's the gentle impression of the Holy Spirit upon our spirit. Implicit to this life in the Spirit is:

- First, saying "yes" by faith even before we've heard Him speak
- Next, "hearing" the Lord as we faithfully yield to young Samuel's prayer; "speak Lord your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:8-9)
- Finally, is full and immediate obedience to what we hear.

The first miracle at the wedding feast of Canna illustrates the powerful simplicity of "doing what He says." Our daily accountability to do the same will empower a fulfilling and impactful life.

Consider this discipline as you reflect on the close of each day:

"Lord, today I heard you say _____
and Your Spirit empowered me to _____."

John 2

Encounter Jesus

"I am consumed with a fiery passion to keep your house pure!" (John 2:17)

SPIRIT EMPOWERED *Faith*

M-2

Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared.

What are you truly *zealous* **about?** What stirs your waking moments and keeps you often awake or fuels your passion? Is it of this world or His? As you consider a response, review your thought life and time commitments, your generosity and compassionate involvement with others.

Being zealous for the things of God and His Kingdom gives meaning and legacy to the Christ-follower's life. Christ's response in the temple was not "politically correct" or without personal risk. Righteous anger prompted Him to action. His Father's plans and purposes were given priority above mere man's.

Pause quietly, asking His Spirit to reveal and refine the passions of your heart:

- In what ways has His Spirit recently led you counter to "political correctness" as a witness of Him?
- What risks of being misunderstood or rejected has He recently led you to take?
- What Kingdom actions ha His righteous anger led you to take?
- What eternal plans and purposes are parts of your daily priorities?

Now pray for a fresh encounter with Jesus and His zeal: *"Lord Jesus, make the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart and my actions each day, pleasing in Thy sight. Holy Spirit, fill me with fresh zeal for eternal things that others around me might take note that I have been with Jesus."*

John 2

Engage Fellowship

"[T]he disciples…believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said." (John 2:22)

God has NOT left us without instruction but rather through His Word he had given us truth and His truth sets free (John 8:12). In these very early days of the ministry of Jesus, we see the imperative of living daily in believing faith and action based upon His Word. It was the words of Jesus that:

- Provided secure direction.
- Separated faith from unbelief.
- Served as ultimate authority for life and eternity.
- Brought unity out of division as His followers yielded to the Word.

Such as some of the many blessings from being a follower, who like these early disciples, "believed the word." Pause to reflect and share your own testimonies of believing the Word:

- Recently the Word provided me direction regarding …
- A scripture promise that I'm now believing in faith become real would be …
- Even though everything around me says differently, I hold to the authority of scripture that …
- I've recently seen His Word bring unity out of division in my own life as I experienced the truth of …

Spirit Empowered Faith

M-2

Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared.

Share together with your small group or partner at least one of the above ways in which as His disciple you are "believing His Word."

Then pray together that each day might be characterized by "walking in the light of His Word" (John 12:35, Psalm 119:105).

"Dear Holy Spirit, as the One who authored the Word, please lead me often into embracing by faith it's life-giving power; might I reflect often that this day I brought You pleasure by being a "doer" of the Word" (James 1:22).

My Journal

Spirit Empowered Faith

M-2

Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared.