

John 4

“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 Spirit?

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 _____.”

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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 _____

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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 _____

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.

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Day 4

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

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 _____

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Day 5

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

John 4

Encounter Jesus

Jesus said to her, “You don’t have to wait any longer, the Anointed One is here speaking with you—I am the One you’re looking for.” (John 4:26)

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L-5

Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things.

Shockingly, Jesus revealed to the Samaritan woman that He was the Messiah; but how did she deserve or merit such revelation? It was only by grace, unmerited....and so it is with you and me.

Reflect on what you have done or could do to deserve His forgiveness. There’s nothing that you could do to earn the gift of His Son? Every one of us much conclude: It’s only by His grace. It is only God’s unconditional love that provided the gift of Calvary and the forgiveness that is available to us.

Make a list of all the things you have done this week to cause God to love you less...

Answer: NOTHING!

Make a list of the things you have done this week to cause God to love you more...

Answer: NOTHING!

“...to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6).

Now allow the Holy Spirit to touch your heart with thanks and gratitude, praise and wonder that God has freely given the gift of His Son and the empowering of His Spirit. **Share your praise and worship with the Lord:**

*Father, as I consider the unmerited gift and provision of Your Son and Your Spirit just for me, my heart is touched with _____.
Overwhelm me with gratitude and empower me through the wonder of Your grace that I might live life pleasing You in all things.*

John 4

Experience Scripture

“My food is to be doing the will of him who sent me and bring it to completion.”
(John 4:34)



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Insights from how Jesus responded to the Father point to one critical factor —YIELD! We don't quarrel; we yield (see Isaiah 45:9). Nowhere in Scripture do we see the Father yielding to the Son. Indeed, the Father is always the one who commands, sends, and commissions the Son. And the Son, as a demonstration of His love, always yields to the Father. Jesus' commitment to yield was so strong that He described it as His very nourishment.

Consider the following additional statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John:

- “I do not seek my own will, but the will of Him who sent me” (John 5:30).
- “I love the Father and...I do exactly what my Father has commanded me” (John 14:31).
- “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love” (John 15:10).

One of the ways we express love to the Father is to yield to His will and to His ways for our life. Great love is expressed when we yield, even before we know His exact plans for us. Our fulfillment of what Jesus called the Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40)—to love God—includes the discipline of yielding! One of the simplest ways to love God is to say, “Yes Lord—now what would You have me do?”

Consider pausing in a prayer of yielding: *“Lord, I acknowledge Your work in my life and yield to it. Continue Your Spirit's work in me that I might better express the life and love of Jesus.”*

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Engage Fellowship

“Your son will live and not die.’ So from that day forward, the man and all his family and servants believed.” (John 4:53)



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Just like this Samaritan father, great things happen as we encounter Jesus, walking by faith in His Word.

Let’s reflect back upon the time when you first entered into relationship with the Savior. Do you remember really desiring to please Him, to put a smile on His face, so to speak? Was a longing to please Jesus part of your “new birth” experience?

When you think back on this time, did you desire to:

- Put away certain things, attitudes, or behaviors from your life?
- Avoid certain familiar patterns and places?
- Flee certain activities and acquaintances?
- Meditate upon God’s Word?
- Worship with fellow Christ-followers?
- Share your experiences with Jesus with other people?

Complete as many of these sentences as you can:

As I think back upon my experience of accepting Jesus as my Savior, I recall these thoughts of wanting to please Him: _____

“...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work.” (Colossians 1:10)

Lord Jesus, I desire to please You, to “walk worthy” of my calling. I dread displeasing You and I sense the Holy Spirit touching my heart, giving me a deeper motivation to yield to You in these ways: _____

My Journal



Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things.
