

John 6

“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 from 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 6

Encounter Jesus

“Here’s a young person with five barley loaves and two small fish.” (John 6:9)

“Jesus then took the barley loaves and the fish and gave thanks to God. He then gave it to the disciples to distribute to the people. Miraculously, the food multiplied, with everyone eating as much as they wanted!” (John 6:11)

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L-10

Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit’s work of Christ-likeness.

There is no better illustration of “freely receiving” and “freely giving” of His provision than Christ’s miracle of feeding thousands. “Freely you have received, therefore freely give.” (Matthew 10:8)

Pause quietly to picture Christ with eyes toward heaven, His hands open.

- With one hand He receives what is available—five loaves and two fish from a young lad.
- With one hand He gives freely and abundantly to the needs of all.

At times, this calling is to freely receive as He gives to you. At other times, He calls you to freely give to the needs of others. His inheritance toward you never runs out; His provision is without limit.

Quietly consider: What encouragement, care, support, or affirmation might you need in the midst of your struggles? Yield to the Holy Spirit within you. Would you open your heart to receive these gifts from Christ, the One who provides?

What acceptance, compassion, appreciation, or respect might you freely give to someone this week? Could you take the time to think of a specific name and then yield to the Spirit’s prompting? As you share His life and love, others will find hope in the Jesus who provides.

Pray like this:

“Lord Jesus, I sense that you would be pleased for me to share _____ with _____. Prompt and empower me to do so by your Spirit. We find hope in a Jesus who provides.

John 6

Experience Scripture

*“The bread of God is the One who came out of heaven to give his life to feed the world. ‘Then please, sir, give us this bread every day.’”
(John 6:33-34)*

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M-1

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

You may not receive daily manna as those wandering in the wilderness, but Jehovah Jireh is still very much providing for your needs!

“To the praise of the glory of His grace” (Ephesians 1:6).

Pause to reflect upon your experience of the glory of God's grace, recently or in the past. Be still before the Lord and ask His Spirit to stir up remembrances, perhaps of times when:

- He unexpectedly provided for you.
- He accepted you in the midst of a failure.
- He healed your physical or emotional pain.
- He restored a broken relationship.

Complete the following sentence:

I give thanks and praise to God for the grace He gave me when ...

Share your completed sentence with your partner or small group. Then pray together, expressing further thanks and praise to God as your grateful heart is prompted to give abundantly to others.

John 6

Engage Fellowship

“When the Jews who were hostile to Jesus heard him say, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven,’ they immediately began to complain.” (John 6:41)

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M-6

Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God’s Lordship in all things.

Many today still grumble because they miss seeing Him for who He really is; sadly many miss Jesus because they don’t encounter Him in His people.

Pause to ask God *who* it is in the traffic pattern of your life who needs to experience encouragement, comfort, acceptance, or support through you!

“No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and His love has been brought to full expression through us” (1 John 4:12).

True fellowship, in which we genuinely love each other, enables the *full expression* of God’s love. This means as we experience God’s love through the love of others, we see Him as He really is. As we receive acceptance from others, we’ll be able to see the God of gracious acceptance (Romans 15:7). Through the comfort of a friend, we’ll be able to see the One who is “the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Just as we receive this blessing of experiencing God through others, we are called to express His presence to others, giving testimony to His glorious riches in order that they might see Him more clearly and find added hope.

Pray together with a partner or small group, asking for His life to be shared through you beginning with those close to you and with other followers of Jesus, and then extend this sharing of His love to others who need to know Him.

My Journal

What was it like? He was the old man who taught in the villages and homes in the miraculous chaos of the first century church. He was the last of the caretakers appointed by the Lord through the years of infancy of His church. He was the last of the apostles in the first century of new faith. He had suffered over and over at the cruel hands of the culture that he loved, but still they came. Seeking what he knew. Questioning, always questioning how he knew what he proclaimed to be true. And over and over he would tell the stories, give the lessons, his eyes glistening with tears as he remembered the events he could not forget. Those stories became his life, emblazoned by the fire of God that was never quenched in the soul of the man who would never forget. Finally, they were written...his story of *The Story*, the Gospel according to the Beloved Disciple, John.

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M-6

Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God's Lordship in all things.
