

John 11

“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 recieved 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 upi 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 thsi 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 11

Engage Fellowship

**“Jesus loved Miriam,
Martha, and Lazarus.”
(John 11:5)**



***Discerning the relational
needs of others with a heart
to give His love.***

It's important to remember that Jesus fulfilled all that his Father intended for Him as a single person. Scripture records that as He entered His teen years, he “increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52). Notice His mental and physical growth, as well as His spiritual. Important also, is that Jesus developed “favor” with others. He was a good student, worker, son, brother, and a good friend!

“In the village of Bethany there was a man named Lazarus, and his sisters, Miriam and Martha” (John 11:1). During His public ministry, the Gospels mention that Jesus makes several trips to Bethany, a small village outside of Jerusalem (see Luke 10:38-42). There seems to be no apparent religious or political significance to the village, and yet it is important to Jesus because His three friends live there!

Miriam, Martha and Lazarus appear to be sources of fellowship for Jesus. As good friends, Jesus is welcomed into their home, meals are taken together, times of significant conversation take place, tears are shed together and others notice the love of four friends.

Startling people with loving initiatives can lead to meaningful fellowship.

People are lovable because they are created by the One who is love. “Jesus loved Miriam, Martha, and Lazarus” (John 11:5). Jesus validates others’ lovableness by giving first to them.

God provides people for us to love through meaningful fellowship. “Look how much he loved Lazarus” (John 11:36). Others observe Jesus’ love for his friends and are startled.

God provides people to love us through meaningful fellowship. “Miriam was the one who would anoint Jesus’ feet with costly perfume and dry his feet with her long hair” (John 11:2). Jesus receives love from others who care deeply for Him.

Pause to list people in your life who serve as sources of fellowship...

- Given that people are worthy of love, to who might you say, “You are lovable?”
- Express gratitude to God for the people with whom you have: enjoyed hospitality, had meals together, shared significant conversation, shed tears, cared for so deeply that others noticed your closeness.
- To whom might you take initiative to “give first” by showing appreciation, providing encouragement, giving comfort, offering support.

“Lord, thanks for blessing my life friendships, especially with _____.”

Just as Jesus would express care and concern for these three in Bethany that He loved (John 11:5), how might God want to additionally express love to friends in your life? Pray now with your partner or small group and ask Him: *“Dear Lord, show me not only who to love but also how to love him/her in relevant ways.”*

John 11

Experience Scripture

*“He remained where he was for two more days.”
(John 11:6)*



Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give His love.

Jesus heard the Word of His Father and courageously yielded to it. In John 11, we observe an example of the Father revealing His Word and the Son exhibiting courage to yield to His Father's will despite a request from His friends.

“One day Lazarus became very sick to the point of death. So his sisters sent a message to Jesus, ‘Lord, our brother Lazarus, the one you love, is very sick. Please come!’” (John 11:23)

Listening to and hearing God's Word....

- **Informs judgment.** “He remained where he was for two more days.” (John 11:6)
- **Empowers courage.** “Finally, on the third day, he said to his disciples, ‘Come. It's time to go to Bethany.’” (John 11:7)
- **Clarifies vision.** “This sickness will not end in death for Lazarus, but will bring glory and praise to God. This will reveal the greatness of the Son of God by what takes place.” (John 11:4)

Pause and practice allowing God's Spirit to make the written Word the living Word...

Ask God to reveal through His Word the areas in your life in which your opinions might be coloring your judgment: *“Lord, help my beliefs, behaviors and relational encounters to be in alignment with Your Word.”*

Ask the Lord to empower your decision making: *“Heavenly Father, may I have the boldness to address issues in my own life and to offer courageous confessions when appropriate. Help me to stand for what is right and not ‘cave in’ to others’ pressure. Also, Father, grant the awareness and the grace to hold others accountable for their growth!”*

Ask God to provide clarity and confirmation through His Word regarding His Will in your current situation: *“Lord, give me a clear purpose in life, and the ability to support and encourage others in following a clear purpose.”*

John 11

Encounter Jesus

“Jesus comforted people throughout His time on earth, sometimes identifying with others’ pain to the point of weeping for them.” (John 11:35)

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Faith
P-3

Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give His love.

Jesus comforted people throughout His time on earth, sometimes identifying with others’ pain to the point of weeping for them (John 11:35; Luke 19:41). Even on the eve of His own death, He comforted the disciples because He sensed their sorrow and anxiety (John 14:1, 18, 27; 16:3).

We are impressed by two miracles in this chapter: the raising of Lazarus from the dead and the miracle of a God who cries! Imagine “weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15) and think that there is a “blessing” available when we mourn. The blessing is called comfort (Matthew 5:4).

Jesus was moved deeply within His spirit as He wept with His friend Miriam. Comfort flowed through the prompting and power of the Comforter. For us comfort may be as simple as sharing “I’m really sorry that happened.” Very often the Holy Spirit’s first work is to take captive and resist our common, unhelpful, or unproductive responses. Consider that Jesus could have but didn’t give these unhelpful responses:

- **Advice/instruction:** “Let me tell you how to solve the problem.” “Maybe next time that happens you should...”
- **Logic/reasoning:** “Let me analyze the situation and tell you why it happened.” “I think that happened because...”
- **Pep talk:** “You’re a winner! You’ll make it through these tough times!” “I’m sure tomorrow will be a better day!”
- **Minimize the incident:** “Sure it hurt, but there’s still a lot going on that’s good.” “Aren’t you being overly sensitive?”
- **Spiritualizing:** “Well, you know that God will work all this out for your good.” “Joseph’s brothers meant evil for him, but God meant it for good.” It’s good to know that we are more than conquerors through Christ!”

Each response seems to work best after we give comfort.

Jesus has compassion for us. “When Jesus looked at Miriam and saw her weeping at his feet, and all her friends who were with her grieving, he was deeply moved with tenderness and compassion” (John 11:33). “Then tears streamed down Jesus’ face” (John 11:35). Jesus not only hurts for people named Miriam in Bethany, but He also hurts for us. We can approach Jesus with our pain, knowing that He cares for us.

Pause and experience Jesus’ comfort...

- Recall a painful life event, remembering how you felt (e.g., disappointed, rejected, alone). Now imagine Jesus comes near to you, gently calling your name. As you turn, you see Jesus’ tender eyes filled with compassionate tears for you.
- Thank Jesus for caring so much: *“Dear Jesus, I’m grateful that You cared enough to come looking for me. Thank you for Your compassionate, caring heart toward my pain.”*

