

# John 10

*“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 10

## Engage Fellowship

***“A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I came to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow!” (John 10:10)***

SPirit  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

L-2

***Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment.***

**T**he promised abundant life is His life expressed through us by the Holy Spirit. Abundant life comes through the Christ-like character of Jesus.

Quietly listen before the Lord as His Spirit speaks of needed Christ-like character in your life: Ask the Lord to give you discernment and direction as you respond to the following:

*“Lord, I sense a needed fresh work of servanthood in me, particularly toward \_\_\_\_\_”*  
(which person/persons in your life?)

*“Holy Spirit, I long for the humility of Christ to be more real in my life through my dependence upon You, my vulnerability before You and others, and my approachability.”*

Who might benefit from your dependence on the Lord? Your vulnerability? Your approachability? \_\_\_\_\_

*“Lord Jesus, I need a strengthening of Your faith in me, that I might believe You for great things. Particularly, I want to trust you for...”*

Now, stand in faith against the “thief” who seeks to steal and destroy abundance: “Free me, Holy Spirit, from all of life’s anxieties so that my heart might rest secure in You. Help me to cease any attempts to fearfully and selfishly take that which you’ve promised to supply.”

*“Lord, forgive me, as there have been times that I have taken Your grace for granted. I want your Spirit to stir within me a sensitive and grateful heart. Overwhelm me with a deep awareness of my identity as the beloved of God. Constrain and control me through the grateful wonder of your love.”*

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Now share with your partner or small group at least one of the ways that His Spirit might want to make changes in you. Pray together, with each of you asking God to change you in these ways. Ask Him to deepen your servant’s heart and to humble your walk before Him and others. Implore Him to strengthen your faith, casting out all of your anxiety. Ask His Spirit to fill you with the gratitude for His wondrous love.

# John 10

## Encounter Jesus

*“The Father has an intense love for me because I freely give my own life to raise it up again.” (John 10:17)*

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Faith

L-2

*Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment.*

“I lay my life that I may take it again!”

Although the Jews did not grasp the significance of Jesus’ words, each of us as Christ followers understands them (John 10:19). We have been made a partaker of His divine nature through the life He laid down.

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Pause and consider Christ’s cry to His Father from the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me” (Matthew 27:46)? As Jesus took our sin on Himself, the Father, in His holiness had to turn away. Then Christ through the Holy Spirit would take up His life again!

Reflect once more on being born again. Why did Christ become sin—or, more personally, for whom did He do it? Who will benefit from His resurrection?

Quietly listen to His Spirit whisper the words to your soul: “He did it for you. He did it for you!” The One who knew no sin became sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). If He did not need to die for any other person in the whole world, He would have died for you—and He did die for you!

Allow yourself to respond to this glorious truth. He was raised for you. Meditate on the thought, or even whisper the words, “He did it for me.” Is your heart moved with wonder, humility, and joy? Does gratitude and praise fill your soul?

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Now share these feelings with God. Give thanks for His initiative in manifesting His glory and presence to you. He laid down His life—and took it up again—for you! “*Lord, I am so grateful that \_\_\_\_\_*”

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# John 10

## Experience Scripture

*“My own sheep will hear my voice and I know each one, and they will follow me.” (John 10:27)*

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L-2

*Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment.*

**H**earing Jesus is critical to following Him. His voice is not unclear or uncertain but often it's our *hearing* that is impaired. To follow Him faithfully requires freedom to hear.

Be still before the Lord and offer the same prayer that David prayed as you seek to put away the things that might hinder you from hearing God:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23, 24).

- Search me, O Lord, for sins that hinder me from hearing You. Free me from all moral filth, evil, malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Free me to have a cleansed heart and mind. Speak now, Thy servant listens. I need to put away ...
- Search me, O Lord, for unresolved emotions that keep me from hearing You. Free me from any guilt or condemnation, any anger or bitterness, any fear or anxiety. Free me to live each moment “in the present” with You. Speak now Thy servant listens. I need to put away ...
- Search me, O Lord, for childish things that distract me from hearing You. Free me from rationalizing my behavior and blaming others, from idle chatter and self-focus. Free me to practice personal responsibility before You and others. Speak now, Thy servant listens. I need to put away...
- Self-initiative that prevent me from hearing You. Free me from my thoughts, my ways, my ideas, and my goals. May I instead embrace Your thoughts, Yours ways, Your ideas, and Your goals. Speak now, Thy servant listens. I need to put away ...

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Pause and wait before the Lord. Listen as He reveals what needs to be put away. Now yield to Him, even though you may not fully know all that will be necessary: “*Lord I sense the need to put away \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_ from my life. Even before fully knowing all that may be required. I yield to You. I long to hear You. Remove this from my life so that I can more freely hear what You reveal to me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

