

John 19

SPirit EMPOWERED Faith

Day 1

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

“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)

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."

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Encounter Jesus

“Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them. So the soldiers seized him and took him away to be crucified.” (John 19:16)

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Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of “others” as He continues to challenge us to love “beyond our comfort.”

He was led away to be crucified not just for the *whole world* but for me! Calvary speaks to loves’ ultimate demonstration—that love might be the declaration of my life.

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering” (Isaiah 53:3).

Pause and allow the Spirit to move your heart in loving response to Jesus:

- What do you feel in your heart for Jesus? It’s your ever deepening love of Him that empowers your ever widening love of others. “Deep” and “wide” such is His love!

“As I consider the sorrowful Savior, despised and rejected—“for me”—my heart is moved with _____ for Him.”

- Now tell Jesus about what is in your heart. Respond to Him with compassion and love as you would for your most beloved friend.

“Jesus, my heart is touched deeply with _____. as I consider Your sacrifice for me. It grieves me deeply that _____. May my sadness for You in some mysterious way, bless You with my love. Might your Spirit prompt in and through me to others expressions of this same sacrificial love. In your name, Amen.”

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Experience Scripture

“So when Jesus looked down and saw the disciple he loved standing with her, he said, “Mother, look—John will be a son to you.” Then he said, “John, look—she will be a mother to you!” From that day on, John accepted Mary into his home as one of his own family.” (John 19:26-27)



Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of “others” as He continues to challenge us to love “beyond our comfort.”

From the cross, Jesus shares loving forgiveness to the soldiers: “Father forgive them...” From the cross, Jesus shares loving acceptance to the thief “Today I say you will be with me in paradise...” And now from the cross in His ever widening demonstrations of love, the Christ shares loving support toward His mother.

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

Since Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), consider a burden or need on your heart, and share it with Jesus:

I am reminded of this burden: _____.
(For example: I am reminded of the financial pressures I am facing. Or I am reminded of my daughter who is out of God’s will).

- Pause now and share your burden with Jesus. He still makes loving provision for those in need. Express your needs to the Lord and allow His Spirit to speak words of care and love to your heart.

“Dear Jesus, I have this burden on my heart and I need to be reassured that you care...”

- Imagine Christ sharing with you like He did with soldiers, a thief, and His own mother: “I want to share in this hardship with you. I am here for you because I love you.”
- Now share with a partner or small group in prayers of yieldedness: “Holy Spirit, would you use my deepening love of Jesus to empower and prompt expressions of love to an ever widening circle of my relationships.”

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Experience Scripture

“After this, Joseph from the city of Ramah, who was a secret disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jewish authorities, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. So Pilate granted him permission to remove the body from the cross. Now Nicodemus, who had once come to Jesus privately at night, accompanied Joseph, and together they carried a significant amount of myrrh and aloes to the cross.”

(John 19:38-39)

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Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of “others” as He continues to challenge us to love “beyond our comfort.”

“**S**ecret disciple!” The two words do not go together. For me to be a disciple – a true follower – it will not be in secret. As I truly follow Him, He will lead me into ever widening expressions of His love. You no doubt have been the recipient of His sacrificial love shared through others and as you gratefully embrace this love it frees you to unselfishly love others. Both Joseph and Nicodemus seemed “slow to love” as secret disciples. Let’s not be slow.

“Freely you have received, therefore freely give” (Matthew 10:8)

Recall a time when you were discouraged, misunderstood or “needy of love” in some way, but God brought another Jesus follower, family member, or friend to support and encourage you. How did this person reassure you, showing loving commitment to you so that you were not alone?

“I remember a time when _____ and God brought _____ into my life to _____.”

Celebrate with a partner or small group. Talk about the times when God brought people in your life to encourage, support and reassure you.

Celebrate these times with one another – acknowledging our great God and how He is at work to share His love through you and me as His people.

“We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

How might you or your family or your Jesus community become ambassadors of Christ’s love for one or more of the people in your life?

- Make a special snack and give it to a co-worker, neighbor or family who is new to the workplace, neighborhood or school.
- Involve your kids in sitting with someone at lunch who doesn’t seem to have many friends.
- Organize a clothing drive, canned food drive, or “bring a penny” campaign for “the least of these” who are struggling financially
- Investigate where the “gates of hell” seem to be “winning” in your community—and prayerfully engage His church in sharing His love and the gospel (Matthew 6:18).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to widen His expression of His love and the gospel through you.

Pray with a partner or small group, asking the Holy Spirit to engage and empower you as an Ambassador for Christ.

My Journal

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Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of "others" as He continues to challenge us to love "beyond our comfort."
