

# John 20

*“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 \_\_\_\_\_.”

SPirit  
EMPOWERED  
Faith

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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## SPRIT EMPOWERED Faith

### 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.

## SPRIT EMPOWERED Faith

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## SPRIT EMPOWERED Faith

### Day 5

**L-4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as "His Beloved."**

# John 20

## Experience Scripture

*“For until then they hadn’t understood the Scriptures that prophesied that he was destined to rise from the dead.” (John 20:9)*



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

**F**or until then they hadn’t understood the Scriptures that prophesied that he was destined to rise from the dead (John 20:9).

“...they did not yet know the Scripture”—is an insightful message on where we find peace and hope. It seems that these disciples could have found benefit from personally embracing Christ’s frequent words concerning His promised resurrection.

It’s this same hope of embracing Scripture that provides encouragement and security in our walk with Jesus. “Through the encouragement of Scripture we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

The Lord is “with us” as His Spirit brings direction and deepened relationship through His Word.

“Be it done unto me according to Thy word” (Luke 1:38).

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*Join with one or two others asking that His word becomes the explanation of your life. “Holy Spirit I say ‘Yes’ to Your God-breathed book. Without even knowing all that Your word will ask of me, I yield for it to be true of me.”*

# John 20

## Engage Fellowship

*“Jesus repeated his greeting, “Peace to you!” And he told them, “Just as the Father has sent me, I’m now sending you.”*  
(John 20:21)



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

**T**o be “sent” with the heart and mission of Jesus is to live as a servant, sharing His life, love and the gospel.

Recall a time when you were prompted to serve a friend, family member, or even a stranger during a time of need. “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). When did God involve you in ministry to another person at their point of need and aloneness?

I recall when (who/what) \_\_\_\_\_  
and God led me to \_\_\_\_\_.

(For example: I recall when several homeless people gathered near my house to stay warm. God prompted us to take them warm soup and blankets each day until the weather changed.)

**Serving others with sensitivity and initiative is a critical part of our being “sent” to live and love as Jesus.** Christ exemplified this when He noticed the many needs of hurting people around Him and took initiative to meet those needs.

Take notice of opportunities to be “sent” as a servant to others in your life:

- Look for the *unnoticed* people around you. Start a conversation. Ask them about the details of their lives.
- Offer to help someone with their groceries, offer your seat on the bus, or even buy a cup of coffee for the person next in line.
- Take care packages to the homeless in your town or volunteer to deliver meals to the elderly.

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*Follow Jesus’ example: pray with others to live out this request: Heavenly Father, I want to be a better servant to my family, co-workers, neighbors, friends, and others around me. Help me this week to lift my focus beyond myself to notice the needs of others. Holy Spirit, prompt my mind and empower my initiative to meet these needs.*

# John 20

## Encounter Jesus

*“But all that is recorded here is so that you will fully believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you will experience eternal life by the power of his name.”  
(John 20:31)*

SPIRIT  
EMPOWERED  
*Faith*

M-6

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

**N**otice the patience and pursuing grace we find in Jesus' love of Mary, the disciples and a hesitant Thomas; we also have received this same loving pursuit as it provides hopeful confidence of His Lordship.

Romans 5:11 "...We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

Let's be reminded that before we were drawn into a personal relationship with God, we were separated from Him. Because of our sin we had no friendship, no relationship and no peace with God. But because of His grace we were saved from our eternal separation from God. We were reconciled, brought back and restored in our relationship with Him.

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*Pause quietly before the Lord as He reminds you what life would have been without Him? Ask Him to remind you of His grace and how the Lord brought you back, made things right and restored you.*

- "I'm especially glad that God brought me to Him because..."
- "I rejoice in God's grace because without Him, I would..."

*Now, with a partner or small group, "rejoice" together in your having received reconciliation.* The Lord smiles when He sees His people living out His Book, experiencing the Scriptures...and in this we find peace and confident hope.

