

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

A Fragrant Offering

Do you want to be like me? Yes, of course I want to be like you. What child does not want to be like his father? You are my Heavenly Father there is no reason that I would not want to be like you. Is that an option? Is there really some way in which I can be like you? **Yes, you can be like me in many ways.** How, is that possible? **Do what a child does.** What's that? **Imitate me.** That doesn't sound like something that is easy to do. **Did you want something that was easy to do?** No, I really would like to imitate you and become like you. How can I get started?

If you want to imitate me then you must come to know me. How do I do that? **Meet with me in prayer. Meet with me in my word. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Carry on a conversation with me throughout your day. How do you get to know anyone?** I get to know another person by spending time with them. **It's no different with me. How well do you want to know me?** I want to know you intimately. **Then spend a lot of time with me. You will never know me well if we don't spend time together. Maybe you should make spending time with me a priority in your life.** How would I do that? **Set a time and a place where we can meet together everyday. Draw near to me and I will draw near to you. Have you ever heard that before?** Yes, many times. **Do you know it to be true?** Yes, without a doubt.

How will I know that I am beginning to become like you? **You will start doing what I have done.** What have you done? **I'm going to let you answer that.** I'll try. **I'm sure that you will do just fine.** You have been a giver. **How so?** You gave your one and only Son to die on the cross so that I could be forgiven and cleansed of my sins. **Yes, I did.** That was a real and powerful demonstration of your love. **Yes, it was.** So, when I start to love others and give of myself to them will I be becoming like you? **Yes, you will.**

Let's talk about my Son. What about Him? **Imitate Him. Do what He did and you will become like me.** What did He do? **That's another question that I will let you answer.** He gave himself to you. He gave himself to others. **Yes, He did.** He went where you sent Him to do what you asked of Him. **Yes, He did.** His sacrificial giving of himself was like a fragrant offering to you. **Yes, it was.** Can I be a fragrant offering to you? **What do you think?** Yes, I can. When I obey you and do what you ask will I become like you? **Yes, you will.** When I love others with your love will I become like you? **Yes, you will.** Will you help me to become a fragrant offering to you? **Yes, I will, you can count on it.** This is all that I have ever wanted.

Heavenly Father, just as a child wants to be like his father so I also want to be like you. Help me to imitate you by living a life filled with your love. Use my life as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to you as I love others with your love. Amen

Love *Imitators Of God*

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

NIV Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

ESV Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Imitate God*

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

NLT Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

NKJV Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

NRSV Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Watch What God Does*

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

MSG Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Imitators Of God*

THEREFORE BE imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

AMP Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Follow God's Example In Everything*

Follow God's example in everything you do just as a much loved child imitates his father. Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him.

TLB Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Imitators Of God*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

NASB Ephesians 5:1-2

Love *Be Like Him*

You are God's children whom he loves, so try to be like him. Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God.

NCV Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitators Of God

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Love – Ephesians 5:1-2

In Context: *Read Ephesians 5*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Heavenly Father, just as a child wants to be like his father so I also want to be like you. Help me to imitate you by living a life filled with your love. Use my life as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to you as I love others with your love. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When has God asked you to do something for Him that involved some kind of sacrifice?

When have you been really reluctant to do something sacrificial that God was asking you to do for Him?

What sacrifices have you been willing to make as you have given yourself up as a fragrant offering to God?

Why have you been willing to freely give of yourself to God by loving and serving other people with His love?

How has imitating Jesus Christ helped you to say yes to all that God was asking of you?

How has imitating Jesus Christ helped you to give of yourself by loving others with God's love?

How has God been making you like Him as you have been imitating Him and His Son Jesus Christ?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Ask God to show you how you can sacrificially love others with His love.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that God will make you like Him as you imitate Him by loving others with His love.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are imitating God by loving others with His love.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you, as God's child, imitate your Heavenly Father by sacrificially loving others with His love.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, help me to imitate you by sacrificially loving others with your love.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, how can I love others and sacrificially give myself as a fragrant offering to you today?
