

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)

Love Others

Is that a difficult challenge for you? Is what a difficult challenge for me? **Is it a difficult challenge for you to love others?** You know how that goes. **Tell me what you have on your mind.** Some people are easier to love. Other people are much more difficult, sometimes seemingly impossible, to love. At one time or another everyone becomes difficult to love. **Who am I calling you to love? Who have I chosen to love?** You love everyone, no matter how unlovable they have allowed themselves to become. You love even those who hurt and harmed and rejected you. You loved me, even when I had no time for you. You loved me, even when I rejected you. You loved me, even when I was living a life that was not pleasing to you. You are calling me to love like you loved. You are calling me to love everyone. **How do you know that I want you to love everyone?** You want me to become like you. You want your love to flow in and out of my life. You want others to see your love on display in my life. You want your love in me to shine brightly in a dark and unloving world. You want your love in me to be a witness that draws others to you. **Yes, I do.**

Why are you able to love others? Why is it no burdensome task for you to go and do what I ask of you? You made it possible for me to come to know and love you. Your love for me, ignited my love for you. Your love for me is continually changing my heart. **How so?** Every day you are helping me to know and love you more. Day by day my passionate desire to know and love you is growing. Your love for me and mine for you compels me to go and do what you ask of me. I am continually looking for ways to live a life that is pleasing you. I know that these desires did not originate with me. You have placed these desires in my heart and mind. You are fanning the flame of these desires in me. You are both the giver and granter of my desire to love you and others. You are helping and making me able to love others just as you have loved me. **Yes, I am.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me so I could come to know and love you. I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. It is my passionate desire and joy to go and do all that you ask of me. I want to live a life that is fully pleasing to you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Comes From God*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

NIV 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *From God*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

ESV 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *Comes From God*

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

NLT 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *Of God*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

NKJV 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *From God*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

NRSV 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *Comes From God*

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love.

MSG 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *From God*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is (springs) from God; and he who loves [his fellowmen] is begotten (born) of God and is coming [progressively] to know and understand God [to perceive and recognize and get a better and clearer knowledge of Him]. He who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love.

AMP 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *Comes From God*

Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better. But if a person isn't loving and kind, it shows that he doesn't know God—for God is love.

TLB 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *From God*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

NASB 1 John 4:7-8

Becoming Like Christ *Comes From God*

Dear friends, we should love each other, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become God's child and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

NCV 1 John 4:7-8

Love Comes From God

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 1 John 4:7-8

In Context: *Read 1 John 4*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

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

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)

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

Dear friends, | let us | love | one another, | for love | comes from | God. | Everyone | who loves | has been | born of God | and | knows God. | Whoever | does not love | does not | know God, | because God | is love. 1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me so I could come to know and love you. I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. It is my passionate desire and joy to go and do all that you ask of me. I want to live a life that is fully pleasing to you. Amen

What It Means:

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

How has God’s love for you ignited your love for Him?

How has your love for God made you watchful and entirely attentive to Him?

How has your love for God made it no burden for you to follow and obey Him?

How has your love for God given you a passionate desire to live a life that is pleasing to Him?

How is being loved by God and loving Him becoming the sweetest thing you have ever known in life?

How has your love for God helped you to take on tasks that might otherwise seem almost impossible?

What have you gone and done because you love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?

Living It Out:

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

Draw near to God so you can come to know and love Him more everyday as you live your life with and for Him.

Seeing It Happen:

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

Have faith that God’s love for you and yours for Him will make you able to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Get Ready To Share:

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

Share with another person or your small group how coming to know God has grown your love for Him.

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 come to know and love God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength.

Prayer To Carry

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

Heavenly Father, thank you for making it possible for me to come to know and love you.

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 come to know and love you even more today?
