

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

Love Others

I have not always loved others with my actions. I have not always had my eyes and ears open to see and hear the opportunities that are before me to love others with my actions. I'm sure that I have walked right on by opportunities to love others with my actions. Forgive me. **You are forgiven. What is it that you want?** I want to follow your example. I want to love like you loved. I want to do what you did. **What did I do?** You humbled yourself. You took on the form of a servant. You loved others with your thoughts, words and actions. You laid down your life for others. **Yes, that is what I did for others. That is what I did for you.** For that, I am thankful beyond what my words could possibly express. **That is good.**

How will you love others with your actions? I'm not sure. How will you lead me to love others with my actions? **You have answered my question with your question.** How so? **You tell me.** I will follow you to where you lead me. I will do whatever you ask of me. I will keep my heart and mind and life attentive to you. I will open my eyes and ears to see and hear the opportunities to love others that you have placed before me. I will not walk right on by the opportunities you give me to love others with my actions. **That will be very good.**

How will you benefit by loving others with your actions? I have not thought of that. **Think about that question now.** I will have great joy in following your example. I will rejoice that I have been used by you to help draw others to you. I will have great peace in knowing that you have used me to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans. I will have satisfaction in knowing that I have been able to shine brightly as your witness in the darkness of the world around me. I will be grateful that you have made me able to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. In addition to all this, I will be thankful that you have allowed me to store up treasure in heaven with you as I love, follow and serve you. **That is very good.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I will not love others only with my words. I will follow your example. I will lay down my life for others. I will do for others what you have done for me. I will love others with my actions. Give me opportunities to demonstrate your love to others in the world. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *What Love Is*

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

NIV 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *We Know Love*

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

ESV 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *What Real Love Is*

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

NLT 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *We Know Love*

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

NKJV 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *We Know Love*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

NRSV 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *Understand And Experience Love*

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love.

MSG 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *Know...Love*

By this we come to know (progressively to recognize, to perceive, to understand) the [essential] love: that He laid down His [own] life for us; and we ought to lay [our] lives down for [those who are our] brothers [in Him]. But if anyone has this world's goods (resources for sustaining life) and sees his brother and fellow believer in need, yet closes his heart of compassion against him, how can the love of God live and remain in him? Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity).

AMP 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *Know What Real Love Is*

We know what real love is from Christ's example in dying for us. And so we also ought to lay down our lives for our Christian brothers. But if someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him—how can God's love be within him? Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.

TLB 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *Know Love*

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

NASB 1 John 3:16-18

Becoming Like Christ *Know What Real Love Is*

This is how we know what real love is: Jesus gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters. Suppose someone has enough to live and sees a brother or sister in need, but does not help. Then God's love is not living in that person. My children, we should love people not only with words and talk, but by our actions and true caring.

NCV 1 John 3:16-18

What Love Is

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – 1 John 3:16-18

In Context: Read 1 John 3

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

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

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

This is how | we know | what love is: | Jesus Christ | laid down | his life for us. | And we ought to | lay down | our lives | for | our brothers. | If anyone | has material possessions | and sees | his brother | in need | but has | no pity | on him, | how can | the love | of God | be | in him? | Dear children, | let us | not love | with words | or tongue | but with actions | and | in truth. 1 John 3:16-18 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I will not love others only with my words. I will follow your example. I will lay down my life for others. I will do for others what you have done for me. I will love others with my actions. Give me opportunities to demonstrate your love to others in the world. Amen

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

How has loving others with your actions allowed you share the love of God with others?

What do you have that you can share with others on a regular basis?

When has someone demonstrated God’s love to you by laying down their life for you?

When have you come to realize that you were failing to fully love others with your actions?

When has the Lord given you an opportunity to love others with your actions?

What great joy have you found in loving others with your actions?

What fruit has your life born has you have continued to love others with your actions?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Follow the Lord’s example by loving others with your actions.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to love others with your actions.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has led you to help others with your actions.

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 follow the Lord's example by loving others with your actions.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, I will follow your example by loving others with my actions.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I love others with my actions today?
