



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 25:4-7,20-21

- ⁵Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
- ⁶Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.
- ⁷How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- ⁸They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
- ⁹For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
- ¹⁰Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Pray: Loving God, you are the source of life and love. As we gather now, open our hearts to the truth of your word. Help us to see your love revealed to us in Jesus and by your Holy Spirit, shape the way we love one another that your love may be alive in us. Amen.

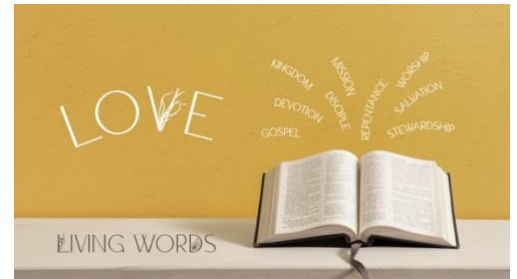


SHARE life together

1. What are your highs and lows since you last met?
2. When you hear the word "love", what immediately comes to mind for you?
3. Think of a time when someone's actions made you feel genuinely loved or cared for. What did that person do and why did it mean so much to you?

Week beginning:
Monday 14th September 2026

Worship series:
Living Words
#1 LOVE



VERSE for the week

"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 and sisters."

1 John 3:16



REMEMBER this week

God's plan from the beginning was to love the whole of His creation, and through your actions all will know His love.

Love is one of the most familiar words in our language—and perhaps one of the most confusing. We use the same word to describe how we feel about our family, our closest friends, a favourite food, a football team, or even a new pair of shoes. We talk about falling in love, showing love, making love, loving ourselves, and loving others. But when Christians talk about *love*, what do we actually mean? Is love primarily a feeling, an attitude, an acceptance of another person, or something we do? In his first letter, John doesn't leave us to come up with our own definition. He points us to Jesus.

As you read **1 John 3:16–24** and **1 John 4:7–16** [HERE](#) or in your own Bible, listen for what John says about where love begins, what love looks like, and how God's love becomes visible in our lives.

4. **What verse/concept/teaching in these readings caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about them for you?**
5. **According to these passages, where does love begin? What does John say God has done to show us what love is?**
6. **Look closely at 1 John 3:16-18. What does John say love looks like in practice? What contrast does he make between talking about love and actually loving someone?**
7. **What do you make of the connections John makes between love, truth, obedience, and remaining in God throughout these passages? What to those connections suggest to you about John's understanding of love?**



Throughout these passages John uses the Greek word *agapē* to speak about love. Sometimes *agapē* is described simply as “unconditional love,” but John gives us a much richer picture. He shows us a love that actively seeks the good of another—a love revealed most clearly in Jesus laying down his life for us. C. S. Lewis described love as “not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person’s ultimate good.” That kind of love may include warm feelings, but it is not dependent on them. It acts for the good of another, even when doing so is difficult or costly. As we dig deeper, consider how this understanding of love might challenge some of the ways we commonly use the word today.

8. **How does understanding love as actively seeking another person’s good challenge the way love is commonly understood or talked about today? Where do you see similarities or differences?**
9. **Love that seeks another person’s good can sometimes be costly. What might we need to give up, put aside, or carry for the sake of genuinely loving another person?**
10. **We sometimes speak as though love and truth are competing values—as though being loving means avoiding difficult truths, or speaking truth means being less loving. How does Jesus challenge that way of thinking? What might it mean to love someone “in truth”?**
11. **Seeking someone’s “ultimate good” is not always the same as giving them what they want. How can we discern what genuinely loving another person looks like, especially when the loving response may be difficult, unwelcome, or misunderstood?**



LIVE purposefully

MAKE IT REAL:

John doesn't describe love simply so that we can understand it better. He points us to the love God has already shown us in Jesus—a love we have received and now carry into our relationships with others. As God's love takes root in us, it begins to shape what we value, what we are willing to give, how we speak the truth, and whose good we seek. Sometimes that love will be simple and joyful; sometimes it will ask something costly of us. But we do not manufacture this love for ourselves. God loved us first, and by his Spirit his love becomes visible through the way we live. So what might that love look like in the particular relationships, communities and opportunities God has placed before us?

12. **Think about the relationships God has placed around you. Where might there be an opportunity for God's love to become more visible through you at the moment?**
13. **Is there someone whose good may require something from you—your time, attention, forgiveness, honesty, patience, comfort, or perhaps giving up something you would prefer not to? What might loving them well look like?**
14. **What is one intentional action you could take this week to share the love you have received from Jesus with someone else? How can your group pray for and encourage you in that?**

Plan your weekly devotions or [download the Church Central app](#) for the daily **LifeWay Devotions**



PRAY intentionally

You might like to pray together the following prayer, or spend time sharing together your prayer needs and praying for one another.

Loving Heavenly Father,

Thank you for showing us what love is through your son Jesus, who laid down his life for us. Fill us again with your love and, by your Spirit, help us to seek the good of others, to love with actions and in truth, and to make your love visible in all we say and do.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross on their forehead or on the palm of their hand as you say...

[Name], You are loved by God and His love lives in you. Amen.