



# Dive Deeper

## LOVE OF GOD

### SERMON NOTES:

4 OCTOBER 2020

Title: *The love of God*

1. God **IS LOVE**\_\_\_\_\_.
2. God's love is His **GOODNESS**\_\_\_\_\_ **POURED**\_\_\_\_\_ **OUT**\_\_\_\_\_.
3. God's love is **DELIGHT**\_\_\_\_\_ and **DUTY**\_\_\_\_\_  
(or **COMPASSION** and **COMMITMENT**\_\_\_\_\_).
4. God's love **CAME**\_\_\_\_\_ (**COMES**\_\_\_\_\_) in **JESUS**\_\_\_\_\_.
5. God's love is to be **EXPERIENCED**\_\_\_\_\_.

## COMMUNITY:

★ = Zoom Friendly

### ★ Finish these sentences:

If you love me, you would...

If you love me, you wouldn't ...

**When have you experienced love? Why was it profound?**

## CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

*(Italicized notations are for leader info)*

**What Scripture comes to mind when you think of God's love or that God is love?**

**Read through a few of the passages together.**

*A simple practice to suggest to your group members is to dedicate a journal page to record passages that speak of God's loving kindness. Add to it as you interact with Scripture this week and in the following weeks. Return to it as often as you need to root yourself in God's love. This will be a practice we will encourage throughout this series.*

### ★ **Pastor Brian confessed that the truth that God loves him is one that he wrestles to believe sometimes. Do you wrestle to believe it, too? How? What makes you question or doubt God's love for you? What practices help you believe God loves you?**

*You could easily spend your whole time wandering down this path of doubt versus belief in this area and its implications. If you choose to use this question, plan to listen well to everyone. It may be a good time to split up into smaller groups to give more opportunity to share and encourage.*

**The second point in the message was "Love is God's goodness poured out." How have you seen the goodness of God poured out in your life?**

*The next two questions are great for newly formed groups to start building relational connections.*

## CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION: *continued*

**What does it look like to grocery shop {inset any common, everyday action} knowing you are loved by God? Knowing the cashier is loved by God?**

*This question is great for newly formed groups to start building relational connections.*

**Read Luke 6:27-35. Discuss the matter of us loving others as it relates to current political issues, cultural issues, dealing with neighbors, difficult people, those we differ with, etc.**

*This takes the concept from question 4 one step further. Not only the cashier, but the person on the other side of the political divide, or on the other side of 'the issue' of the day all the way down to 'your enemy' and 'those who hate you, ...those who curse you'. This may be tricky to wade in to, but what better place than a community of people seeking to faithfully follow Jesus! Pray as you enter into this conversation. Remember the person on 'the other side' bears the same image of God that you do. Then do a word search on love through Scripture! (Logos.com has a great free resource!) Get a wide swath of the passages that refer to love and inform us how to love. Base your conversation in Scripture and practice great listening here. Leader, at the end of this conversation, remind yourself and your group members that we each are beloved by God.*

**As Pastor Brian asked "How does the truth of God's love become an experience in us?"**

*Pastor Brian offered these 2 ideas: To accept God's love in Jesus on the cross and to believe and trust Him. Probe deeper than the answer given from the sermon; what are practical ways this truth moves from head to heart?*

# FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS:

## DINNER TIME DISCUSSION

What are some recent evidences of God's loving-kindness for you?



## DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Read Psalm 103 out loud, together before dinner each day this week.

*If dinner time doesn't work, choose bedtime, or before you get out of bed, etc. Choose a time in your day when you consistently repeat an action each day.*

## PRACTICING PRAYER

Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21 together as a group. Read through it once together and then personalize it.

*Personalized example: "that according to the riches of his glory he may grant me to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in my inner being."*

## VERSE MEMORY

**1 John 4:16**

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

*english standard version*

## GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Tell yourself out loud (maybe in the mirror) a few times each day: **"I am deeply loved by God."** Notice how your thoughts, habits, perspectives change throughout the day after hearing this truth.

*Encourage your group to take the truths you discover in Scripture into their every day life. Calling them to mind often changes our mindsets and actions.*

***To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.***