



# *Love* ADVENT

**DEVOTION TO THE GOOD OF ANOTHER**

**WEEK  
FOUR**



## READ

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**JOHN 3:16 (NIV)**

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

**1 JOHN 4:7 (NIV)**

## UNDERSTAND

### **Love is all you need.**

The Beatles were on to something with that famous lyric, right?

As we close the Advent season, remember that it's ultimately the love of God that we celebrate and remember this season. It's His love that motivated Him to send His Son to Earth. It's His love that made Him want to save us. It's His love that sustains us in this life. And it's His love that connects us to others.

At its very core, the Advent season is about the love that God has for us—His people. It's a love like none other—a love that changed every single thing about our lives.

Don't let the Advent season close with pausing to reflect on the love God has for you. Thank Him for His love and the lengths He went thousands of years ago to demonstrate it to us. Then, ask Him to help you share that love with someone who may need it this year. In the same way the Advent season changed our lives with God's love thousands of years ago, it can still change the lives of those around us today.

God's love really is all we need.

## RESPOND

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is one way you've experienced God's love in your life?
2. How has God's love changed your life?
3. How can you remember the love of God through His son Jesus this holiday season?
4. What can you do to share that love with someone else?

### FAMILY TIME

Make an effort to teach your children what it looks like to share God's love with others this season.

Together, come up with ways you can demonstrate the love of God in your community, in your family, or in your church this season. Maybe it's through serving together, giving to those in need, or simply being kind. Brainstorm your ideas for sharing love together and create a list.

Then, choose just one thing from your list that you can do together as a family to show the love of God to others this holiday season. Make plans to do it before the holiday are over.

After you do, talk with your kids about what it felt like to share the love of God with others through service, action, or words. Then, pray that God will continue to show you ways you can share His love with those around you in the coming year.

# Prayers of Love

Here are five prayer prompts to invite and nurture a spirit of love into each day this week. Use this guide with your family or small group.

## WHEN YOU ABIDE

On your own: As we have walked through the last weeks of Advent and discussed the anticipation of God's hope and peace and joy--do you still find yourself anticipating His love, too? Where do you still struggle to recognize His goodness? Take a few minutes and write it down.

Pray together: *Oh, Jesus who descended from Jesse, you are a sign of God's love. We are hopeful and expectant, filled with a rebirth of joy and love. We depend on You with all we have. You are a rock for our beliefs and a sign of God's love. Fill us with Your praise! We want to sing Your glory, filled with joy for the message of hope You send. We don't always understand when You are acting on our behalf, but we trust in Your love. Thank You for the message of hope You send. Give me true faith and love as we celebrate the mystery of how You came to be with us. Amen.*

## WHEN YOU WORSHIP

On your own: We gather together to celebrate the love of our Father who sent His Son to forgive our sins. Advent is a time to reflect and rejoice over the love of a Savior who came to us in a manger. As you prepare for Worship this week, how can you be a source of love for our body?

Pray together: *Lord, we thank You for coming to earth so You could redeem us. When we think of the extent to which You were willing to go in order to save us, it makes us want to shout, to celebrate, and to cry with thankfulness. You love us so much, and we are so grateful for that love. Without You, we would still be lost and in sin. But because of everything You have done for us, today we are free; our lives are blessed; our church is blessed; Jesus is our Lord; and Heaven is our home. We will be eternally thankful to You for everything You did to save us! We pray this in Jesus' name! Amen.*

## FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

On your own: We often call our small groups intentionally invasive because we desire to dive deep with each other. Sometimes that calls us to share our mess with each other, or be a source of love for others in the messy middle of a difficult season. How can you be more vulnerable and bold with your group? How can you be an instrument of love to your small group? What can you do to help someone joyfully anticipate Christ's love in a difficult time?

Pray together: *Giver of every good thing, You have blessed us that we might bless others. Help us use what we have to love, to serve, and to bring Your abundant life to the ones you call us to walk this life with. Give us the privilege of asking for or offering help to people in need, that we might be transformed along with them. Amen.*

## FOR THOSE YOU SERVE

On your own: How have you learned more about God's love by serving in the church? How have you been a source of love for the church with your time, talents, and gifts? Reflect and discuss.

Pray together: *Gracious Father, thank you for utilizing us in your Church. We ask that our gifts are received in a spirit of love and gratitude. We pray that our service to the body be a catalyst for deeper relationships within our community. Thank You for Your love and the ability to love Your church. Amen.*

## FOR YOUR INTERSECTIONS WITH THE WORLD

On your own: At this point, we hope that the Lord has revealed five people to you that you can speak Love into. Who are your five people and how can you intentionally show them Love this week? Ask the Lord to show you opportunities. If you do not have your five, stop and pray now that the Lord would give you clearly show you who He would have you pray, serve, and share with.

Pray together: *God of mercy, who taught that true faith consists of loving God and loving our neighbor, let us not settle for apathy. We beg you to clearly put people in our paths, open up opportunities for us to invite others to church, meet their needs, and share Your Love. We ask that you ready them to hear Your invitation and accept it. Afflict us when we are too comfortable, convict us of our apathy, and move us to demonstrate our faith with our deeds and words. Amen.*

# SOAP STUDY ON LOVE

## JOHN 3:16 (NIV)

**S** *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**O**

**A**

**P**

# SOAP STUDY ON LOVE

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*has been born of God and knows God.*

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# SOAP STUDY ON LOVE

## JOHN 15:9-13 (NIV)

**S** *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

**O**

**A**

**P**