



Day 4

Love

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *"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

Discussion Jesus has told Nicodemus people need to be born again in order to enter the Kingdom. He goes on to say that the Son of Man will die and those who believe in Him will have eternal life. This famous passage follows immediately after. It is hard to grasp God's love. Before He created earth, the creatures, and humanity, God knew we would rebel against him and become separated from Him. He knew the price of our reconciliation would need to be Jesus's death for our sins. He could have said never mind and not created us. He could have just enjoyed the beauty of creation and the wonder of the birds and animals. Instead, knowing the price ahead of time, God chose to create us, allowed us to fall, and orchestrated Jesus' life, death and resurrection, so that we could know Him. He sees our sins in much more detail and breadth than we do, and He loves us. We have the incredible gift of knowing God, being in a living relationship with Him based on believing in who Jesus is, what He did, and choosing to follow Him. We have the privilege of telling others about Jesus' love in our lives. And, since we are now our Father's children and are to have the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we are to love like God. God initiated this our relationship by demonstrating His love to humanity. God loved us, before any of us could even ask to be loved or forgiven. God loved us, even though we didn't deserve to be forgiven. We are to love like God. We are to take the initiative to love others. Love those who have done many evil and damaging sins, who don't deserve our love, who don't want or ask for our love. Who has God placed around us so that we may choose to take the initiative to love them?

Application Who in your life can you take the initiative to love like God first loved you? What would it look like to imitate a Christ-like and loving relationship with them? If possible, take that initiative today, or write down what you want to do and plan ahead so you can start to love like Christ first loved you.

Prayer Father, thank You that You love me. Thank You that You reached out to me. Thank You Jesus that You died for me, that I could be reconciled with the Father and be adopted as His son; that I could belong to Him. How is it that I, a human being, can know and speak with God? That You would speak with me? Father, please work in me to love more like You do. I commit myself to tell others of Your love for me and for them. Help me see the people around me as You do. You love them. I submit myself to You. Please show me ways to love them. Thank You. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week: *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."* Mark 12:29-31

