

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

40 Days of Love Preparation Weekend

"Let love be your greatest aim."

1 Cor. 14:1 (LB)

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength... love your neighbor as yourself. There are no commands more important than these."

Mark 12:30-31 (NCV)

"Everything you do must be done with love."

1 Cor. 16:14 (NLT)

• THE BASICS OF LOVE •

WE LOVE BECAUSE _____

"Love comes from God...for God is love."

1 John 4:7-8 (NLT)

"We love because God first loved us."

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

"We know and rely on the love God has for us."

1 John 4:16a (NIV)

LOVE IS A _____ **AND A** _____

"Choose to love the Lord your God... and commit yourself to him..."

Deut. 30:20 (NLT)

LOVE IS _____

"Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18 (NIV)

LOVE IS _____

“Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better.”

1 John 4:7 (LB)

“Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all.”

1 Tim. 4:15 (TEV)

LOVE IS _____

“Continue to love each other with true Christian love.”

Heb 13:1 (NLT)

“If you only love those who love you, what credit is that to you?”

Luke 6:32 (NIV)

“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.”

2 Cor. 13:5 (Mes)

• 40 Days of Love Pre-Test •

ASSESSING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Parents

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Marriage Prospects (If you’d like to marry)

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Spouse

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Relative _____

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Coworkers _____

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Neighbors _____

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Different/Difficult _____

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Children _____

1---3---5---7---9

Poor Great

Jesus: "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

John 13:35 (KJV)

• HOW TO BECOME GREAT AT RELATIONSHIPS •

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

"This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love."

Phil. 1:9 (NCV)

LOVE MATTERS MOST

40 Days of Love - Part 1

“Which is the most important command?” Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: ‘Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.’”

Matt. 22:36-39 (LB)

• 3 LAWS OF LOVE •

I. THE BEST USE OF LIFE

Why?

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:8 (NIV)

“If we say we love God, but hate others, we are liars. For we cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen.”

1 John 4:20 (TEV)

Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Col. 3:14 (CEV)

“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)

“God wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law... He took them away and nailed them to the cross.”

Col. 2:14 (CEV)

“Three things will continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.”

1 Cor. 13:13 (NCV)

“No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.”

1 Cor. 13:3 (MSG)

II. THE BEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE _____

“We must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words.”

1 John 3:18 (GW)

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

Gal. 5:6 (NIV)

“Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins.”

Eph. 5:2 (NLT)

III. THE BEST TIME TO LOVE _____

“Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone...”

Gal. 6:10 (NLT)

“Use every chance you have for doing good.”

Eph. 5:16 (NCV)

“Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.”

Prov. 3:27-28 (GN)

“Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire love. Make it your aim, your great quest...”

1 Cor. 14:1 (Amplified)

LOVING LIKE JESUS LOVES ME

40 Days of Love - Part 2

Jesus: "I'm giving you a new commandment: Love each other in the same way that I have loved you."

John 13:34 (GW)

"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you!"

John 13:15 (NLT)

1. _____ LIKE JESUS _____

The Father gives me my people. Every one of them will come to me, and I will always accept them."

John 6:37 (NCV)

"Even if my mother and father forsake me, the Lord will receive me."

Ps. 27:10 (NIV)

"Jesus treated us much better than we deserve.

He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life."

Titus 3:7 (CEV)

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

John 3:17 (NLT)

"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you."

Rom. 15:7 (NIV)

"We must bear the "burden" of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others..."

Rom. 15:2a (LB)

• Action Step •

This week I will show acceptance to _____

Someone who irritates you or is hard to love

2. _____ LIKE JESUS _____

“Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted! Do not be afraid. You are worth far more than many sparrows.”

Luke 12:6-7 (NAB)

VALUE DEPENDS ON _____

Everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.

1 Timothy 4:4 (NIV)

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

VALUE DEPENDS ON _____

“He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”

1 Peter 1:19 (NLT)

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands!”

Isaiah 49:15-16 (NIV)

“Treat everyone you meet with dignity.”

1 Peter 2:17 (MSG)

Jesus looked at him and loved him.

Mark 10:21 (NIV)

• Action Step •

This week I will affirm the value of _____

Someone who has low self-worth

3. _____ **LIKE JESUS** _____

“I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you.”

Isa. 43:25 (GN)

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

“There is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Rom. 8:1 (NIV)

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Matt. 26:28 (NIV)

“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”

Col. 3:13 (NLT)

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

Luke 6:37 (NIV)

“Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?”

Matt. 18:33 (NLT)

• Action Step •

This week I will offer forgiveness to _____

Someone who has hurt you or is carrying a load of guilt or shame

4. _____ LIKE JESUS _____

*If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost.
You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him,
and always stand your ground in defending him.*

1 Corinthians 13:7 (LB)

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

John 17:18 (NIV)

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

Matthew 17:20 (NIV)

Jesus said, “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

Mark 9:23 (NIV)

“Then Jesus told them, “I assure you, if you have faith and don’t doubt you can do things like this and much more...”

Matt. 21:21 (NLT)

“The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

John 14:12 (NLT)

“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.”

Rom. 1:12 (NCV)

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

Heb. 10:24 (NIV)

• Action Step •

This week I will demonstrate trust in _____

Someone you see has potential for growth: “I believe in you!”

“May you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.”

Eph. 3:18 (NLT)

LOVE LETS IT GO

40 Days of Love - Part 3

“Love is not rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and loves keeps no record of when it has been wronged.”

1 Cor. 13:5 (NLT)

• 4 MARKS OF REAL LOVE •

Love is not rude. so...

1. _____

“Answering before listening is both stupid and rude.”

Prov. 18:13 (MSG)

“Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don’t yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.”

Eph. 4:31-32 (CEV)

*“A wise, mature person is known for his understanding.
The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.”*

Prov. 16:21 (TEV)

LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY. So...

2. _____

“Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.”

Phil. 2:5-7 (NLT)

*“Believers shouldn’t curse anyone or be quarrelsome,
but they should be gentle and show courtesy to everyone.”*

Titus 3:2 (GW)

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Luke 6:31 (NIV)

LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE. So...

3. _____

“Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too.”

Gal. 6:1 (NCV)

Each of us will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on each other.”

Rom. 14:12-13 (NIV)

“Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.”

Prov. 15:4 (NLT)

“If your boss is angry with you, don’t quit! A quiet spirit can overcome even great mistakes.”

Eccl. 10:4 (NLT)

LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS. So ...

4. _____

“Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop, leave it, and let it go, in order that your Father who is in heaven may also forgive you your own failings and shortcomings and let them drop.”

Mark 11:25 (Amp)

“Hate stirs up trouble, but love forgives all offenses.”

Prov. 10:12 (TEV)

“When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it.”

Prov. 19:11 (TEV)

“You are only hurting yourself with your anger.”

Job 18:4 (TEV)

LOVE IS NOT EASILY ANGERED

40 Days of Love - Part 4

“Love is not easily angered.”

1 Cor. 13:5 (NIV)

• HOW DO YOU TAME YOUR TEMPER? •

1. RESOLVE _____

“A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.”

Pr. 29:11 (LB)

2. REMEMBER _____

“A hot-tempered man . . . gets into all kinds of trouble.”

Pr. 29:22 (LB)

“Hot tempers cause arguments.”

Pr. 15:18 (GN)

“... anger causes mistakes.”

Pr. 14:29 (LB)

“People with hot tempers do foolish things.”

Pr. 14:17 (GN)

*“The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment
will finally have nothing worthwhile left.”*

Pr. 11:29 (LB)

3. REFLECT _____

“A stupid man gives free rein to his anger; a wise man waits and lets it grow cool.”

Pr. 29:11 (NEB)

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience.”

Pr. 19:11 (NIV)

Ask 3 questions

“Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say.”

Psalms 141:3 (NCV)

“Drinking too much makes you loud and foolish. It’s stupid to get drunk.”

Pr. 20:1 (TEV)

4. RELEASE _____

“If you become angry, don’t let your anger lead you into sin.”

Eph. 4:26 (GN)

“A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up.”

Pr. 15:1 (TEV)

5. RE-PATTERN _____

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

Romans 12:2a (NLT)

“Keep away from angry, short-tempered people, or you will learn to be like them ...”

Pr. 22:24 (LB)

6. RELY

“Patience and encouragement come from God. I pray God will help you all agree with each other the way Christ Jesus wants.”

Rom. 15:5 (NCV)

“The fruit of the Spirit is... patience.”

Gal. 5:22 (NIV)

“Whatever is in your heart determines what you say.”

Mt. 12:34 (NLT)

“I’ll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I’ll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that’s God-willed, not self-willed.”

Ezekiel 36:26 (Mes)

THE SECRETS OF LASTING LOVE

40 Days of Love - Part 5

God: *"I will show you my love forever. So says the Lord who saves you."*

Isaiah 54:8 (TEV)

"I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you."

John 15:12 (NLT)

"Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up."

1 Cor. 13:7 (GW)

1. LASTING LOVE

"Love never stops being patient"

1 Cor. 13:7a (GW)

"...puts up with anything" (MSG)

"... patiently accepts all things" (NCV)

"...is always ready to make allowances" (NJB)

"Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."

Eph. 4:2 (NLT)

2. LASTING LOVE

"Love never stops believing"

1 Cor. 13:7b (GW)

"...always trusts" (NIV)

"... never loses faith" (NLT)

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

Gal. 5:6 (NIV)

3. LASTING LOVE

“Love never stops hoping”

1 Cor. 13:7c (GW)

“...always expects the best” (LB)

“...always looks for the best” (MSG)

4. LASTING LOVE

“Love never gives up”

1 Cor. 13:7d (GW)

“...endures through every circumstance” (NLT)

“...always perseveres” (NIV)

“...never looks back, but keeps going to the end” (MSG)