

JUMP START



Lesson 2: Love

God wants you to
love Him deeply.

And as we live in God,
our love grows more
perfect.
1 John 4:17a



REARVIEW MIRROR

Think about the last lesson. What was one thing that really spoke to you? Was there something that you changed, did differently or added into your life as a result?



EYES ON THE ROAD: Watch the video.

START YOUR ENGINE

Make a list of what you love (other than spouse, family or friends). Be descriptive and exhaustive.



CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Scripture references may be found at the end of each lesson.

1. Write down the things you love about God. Read Psalm 145:8-21 to jumpstart your thoughts.
2. Has there ever been a time in your life when something you did caused you to think that God had stopped loving you?

Read Romans 8:38-39.

Describe God's love according to these verses.

How does this describe God's unconditional love for you?

3. Let's take a look at some characteristics of God's "agape" love.

Read Romans 5:8

In this verse, how is God's love selfless, sacrificial and/or unconditional?
(You may also want to read Romans 5:6-7)

4. You have learned about God's love for you. Now let's examine how you might reflect His love to others.

"Phileo" love is often conditional and based on how others treat us. In Susan's talk, she quoted *1 John 4:17a*, "As we live in God, our love grows more perfect." What does it mean to "live in God"?

Read Psalm 145:8-10.

List the character qualities of God (These qualities also reflect your life when "lived in God").

Is there someone in your life who is challenging you to live out these qualities unconditionally in your relationship with them?

5. How do we love like God loves?

Read *1 John 4:19-21* and write your thoughts.

In this lesson, you have been faithful to learn God's Word. Now it's time to *Hit the Road*. By doing the *Hit the Road* portion of *Jumpstart*, you will take what you have learned and put it into action. Don't miss the most exciting part of the ride.



HIT THE ROAD

1. Write about a time in your life when you felt the most loved. What were the circumstances around that feeling? Record how you could replicate that for someone in your life, even if this person is difficult to love.

Read John 13:1-5, 14-15

In verses 14-15 Jesus suggests that we should do as he has done.

What was the one thing Jesus did for His disciples?

What is Jesus asking you, out of love, to do for someone else that might seem hard right now?

2. In 1 John 3:1, God's love is described as lavish. If someone was to lavish you today in love, what would that look like?

Think of someone who needs your love right now.

How could you extend lavish love to them today? This week, have some fun. Do one lavish thing for someone. Here are some words for lavish: extravagant, extreme, fancy, insane, excessive, over-the-top, steep and unconscionable. (Be prepared to share during Rearview Mirror what lavish thing you did.)

3. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit teaches you everything about love. Sometimes extending love is a difficult thing even to those who are easy to love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 defines true love as: patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, not rude. True love does not demand its own way, is not irritable and keeps no record of wrong. It never gives up or loses faith. Which one is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about today?

Find a smooth rock. Using a permanent marker, write the love quality you are asking the Holy Spirit to help you with this week. (Keep the rock near you this week to remind you how you are asking God to help you love better.)

SCRIPTURES (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION)



CHARGE YOUR BATTERY

Psalm 145:8-21 —

- 8** *The Lord is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.*
- 9** *The Lord is good to everyone.
He showers compassion on all his creation.*
- 10** *All of your works will thank you, Lord,
and your faithful followers will praise you.*
- 11** *They will speak of the glory of your kingdom;
they will give examples of your power.*
- 12** *They will tell about your mighty deeds
and about the majesty and glory of your reign.*
- 13** *For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.
You rule throughout all generations.
The Lord always keeps his promises;
he is gracious in all he does.*
- 14** *The Lord helps the fallen
and lifts those bent beneath their loads.*
- 15** *The eyes of all look to you in hope;
you give them their food as they need it.*
- 16** *When you open your hand,
you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.*
- 17** *The Lord is righteous in everything he does;
he is filled with kindness.*
- 18** *The Lord is close to all who call on him,
yes, to all who call on him in truth.*
- 19** *He grants the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cries for help and rescues them.*
- 20** *The Lord protects all those who love him,
but he destroys the wicked.*
- 21** *I will praise the Lord,
and may everyone on earth bless his holy name
forever and ever.*

Romans 8:38-39 —

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 —

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

“Instead of being identified as a community that memorizes Scripture, why not be identified as a community of professional lovers that causes people to say, ‘How they love one another!’”

—Brennan Manning

1 John 4:17a —

And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect.

Psalm 145:8-10 —

The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. All of your works will thank you, Lord, and your faithful followers will praise you.

1 John 4:19-21 —

We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.



HIT THE ROAD

John 13:1-5, 14-15 —

1 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. 2 It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

1 John 3:1 — (New International Version)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 —

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.