



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE LOVE
OF GOD



Love in Action

OVERVIEW

When we truly experience God's love, we can't help but share it. His love changes us so that we can change the world. Real love doesn't just stay inside—it overflows. Love in action is the evidence of a relationship that's real and growing.

Scripture Passages

- Matthew 22:37–39
- 1 John 4:19
- James 1:22
- Romans 12:9–13
- Ephesians 4:32
- John 13:35

EDUCATE

Developing a relationship with God is the most valuable thing we can do. That relationship becomes the fuel that lights our fire. When we encounter the love of Jesus deeply, it transforms us—and that transformation naturally calls for a response.

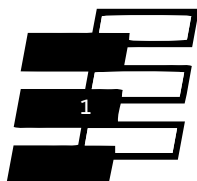
What are you passionate about? (This is something you can talk about for multiple hours a day and feel refueled and fulfilled by.)

Teachers Note: This question will help students clarify their passions and channel this passion into ministry purpose.

Point 1: When you love someone, you want to do what pleases them.

Love is more than just words or feelings—it leads to action. When you love someone, it changes how you live. You think about what makes them happy, what makes them feel seen, what communicates, “I care about you.” The same applies to our relationship with God. If we truly love Him, we'll naturally want to do what pleases Him—not out of pressure, but out of desire.

In Matthew 22:37–38, Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment” (NLT). It's not just a rule—it's the heartbeat of our faith. And just like any healthy relationship, love leads to response.



Lesson 4

If you love God, you'll want to spend time with Him, follow His Word, and reflect His character in the way you treat others. You'll want to worship, pray, obey, and grow. It's not about striving to earn approval—it's about expressing your affection.

This week, ask yourself: Am I showing God that I love Him with my time, choices, and priorities? Am I making room for the relationship I say matters most? Because love always leads to response—and God's love deserves everything we've got.

Point 2: Loving God and loving others is inseparable.

Right after Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God, He gave us the second greatest: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). In other words, you can't truly love God and hate people. It doesn't work. Love for God always turns into love for people.

1 John 4:19 says, "We love because He first loved us" (NIV). God's love fills us—and that love is meant to flow outward. If we've been forgiven, how could we not forgive? If we've received grace, how could we not show grace? If we've been loved, how could we not love?

Loving others means showing up when it's inconvenient. It means including people who feel left out. It means serving even when you're tired, being kind when it's easier to snap, and choosing to forgive instead of holding a grudge.

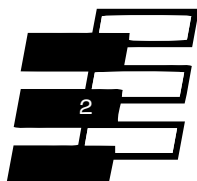
Real love breaks down walls and builds bridges. It's patient, it's kind, it doesn't keep score. You don't have to be perfect to love others—you just have to be willing. God isn't asking for performance. He's asking for reflection—will you reflect His love to those around you?

Loving people is one of the clearest ways to show the world who Jesus is. So don't just say you love God. Let it be seen in the way you love His people.

Point 3: We reflect God's love through action: serving, forgiving, and giving.

Have you ever been a recipient of forgiveness? What was that like?

James 1:22 challenges us to not just be hearers of the Word, but doers. That means we don't just listen to sermons and write in journals—we take what we've heard and live it out. God's love isn't passive—it's powerful. And when we've experienced it, we're called to act on it. Love is a motivator for us. If we love Jesus, we will follow His commandments.



Lesson 4

Romans 12:9–13 gives us a picture of what love in action looks like: “Love must be sincere... Be devoted to one another in love... Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (NIV). These aren’t suggestions—they’re ways we bring Heaven to earth.

You don’t need a stage or a microphone to make a difference. You just need a heart that says, “God, use me.” Love in action looks like serving someone behind the scenes, praying with a friend at school, giving your time to a missions fundraiser, or saying yes to an AYC trip even if it feels scary. Love pushes past fear because it’s focused on people.

Maybe you need to forgive someone this week. Maybe you need to speak life over a friend who’s been struggling. Maybe you need to give your time to someone who feels unseen. Whatever it looks like—do something.

God’s love is too good to keep to ourselves. It moves us toward others. It lifts our eyes from what we need to what someone else might need. And when we live that way—serving, forgiving, giving—we become a reflection of the God who did all of that for us first.

Closing

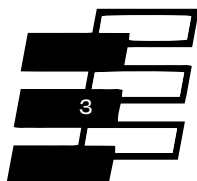
We’ve spent the last few weeks discovering the depth of God’s love.

- In Week 1, we looked at the character of God—who He is and how His love is part of His very identity.
- In Week 2, we saw how His love didn’t just feel something—it *did* something. Jesus came to rescue us.
- In Week 3, we were reminded that the greatest treasure we can ever have is a real, growing relationship with Jesus.

But here’s the thing about real love: it doesn’t stay still. It moves. It acts. It gives. And when God’s love gets inside of you, it will absolutely start flowing out of you.

That’s the heartbeat of today’s message: John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (ESV).

Love that’s real becomes love that’s visible. Relationship with Jesus always leads to impact on others.



Jesus said the two greatest commandments are to love God and love others. You can't separate the two. When you spend time with Jesus, His love starts to shape how you talk, how you treat people, how you serve, how you forgive.

You don't need to be perfect. You just need to be willing. Because here's the truth: the world doesn't need more impressive Christians. It needs more loving ones.

James 1:22 says: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (ESV). You've *heard* a lot these past few weeks. Now it's time to *do* something with it.

ENGAGE

Before you leave tonight, write down one bold action you're going to take this week as a response to God's love.

- Maybe it's including someone who's usually left out.
- Maybe it's speaking life over someone who's hurting.
- Maybe it's serving at church, forgiving someone, or finally saying yes to that AYC trip.
- Maybe it's simply sitting down and asking, "God, what can I do to show your love this week?"

Write it down. Pray over it. Then next week come ready to share what God did through your obedience.

Love came for you. Now love moves through you. Let's go live like it.

Teacher Note: Encourage students to share their commitments with a leader or friend for accountability.

