

SESSION 19
GOD IS LOVE (A)
Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING
 Chapter 20 “God Is Love”

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

God is our great Creator, our perfect Judge, and our gracious Savior. Today we will study the first of four attributes that describe how God relates to His creation as Savior. In this lesson we will study God’s love. His love is perfect and encompasses and guides every other aspect of His character, for God *is* love.

Before we focus on love as a characteristic of God, let’s briefly consider the following questions:

- ❑ How does today’s media depict love?
- ❑ How is love understood and lived out in our society?
- ❑ How does our understanding of love, as we are influenced by the world, affect our experience of God’s love?

Society’s views on love and God’s truth about love are very different. God teaches about His love through His actions and sacrifice for us. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to teach us about how God’s love can impact our life.

Lead the group in prayer.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT:
GOD IS LOVE (20 MINUTES)

The cue graphic on the videotape is “Lesson 10” (the video segments are divided by attributes).

In today’s session Dr. Bright will point us to a biblical understanding of God’s love. Please turn to the Video Outline on page 56 in your Study Guide.

GROUP DISCUSSION (19 MINUTES)

- ❑ What thought expressed in today’s session meant the most to you?
- ❑ Dr. Bright said, “God never compromises any of His attributes or standards. His love does not suppress or negate any of His other attributes.” What implications does this have for our lives?
- ❑ What are your thoughts and reactions to Dr. Bright’s assertion, “Our loving God uses adversity in our lives not to destroy us, but to build our faith and spiritual power”?
- ❑ How do you think God wants to display His love in your life?
- ❑ What difference can God’s love make in your life situations?

As we consider God’s great love for us, I would like to point you to the booklet *GOD: Seeking Him Wholeheartedly*. God’s overwhelming love for us completely engulfs our relationship with Him. As you continue to process and apply the material from this booklet, think about how God’s love affects every aspect of how you relate to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you more aware of His presence and to give you an increasing awareness of His love for you.

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 19
GOD IS LOVE (A)
Video Outline



“The LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever” (Psalm 100:5).

1. Love permeates the character of God.
(1 John 4:8)
2. Love reveals God to be gracious.
(Psalm 145:8)
3. God’s supernatural love is perfect and unconditional.
(Psalm 36:7; 1 John 4:18,19)
4. God’s love is demonstrated by His sacrificial commitment to our well-being.
 - God’s love involves sacrifice. (1 John 4:9,10)
 - God’s love involves commitment. (Romans 8:35–39)
 - God’s love involves wanting what’s best for us. (Romans 8:28)
5. God enables us to be channels of His love.
(1 John 4:16)
 - God wants us to love Him wholeheartedly. (Matthew 22:37,38)
 - God wants us to love our neighbor. (1 John 4:11)
 - God wants us to love ourselves. (Matthew 22:39)
 - God even wants us to love our enemies. (Matthew 5:44)

*Because God is love,
He is unconditionally committed to my well-being.*

RECOMMENDED READING
GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 20 “God Is Love”

SESSION 20
GOD IS LOVE (B)
Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING

Chapter 21 “God Helps Us Spread His Love”

You will need a CD player and the “GOD: Musical Reflections of His Character” CD to begin this session.

REVIEW (8 MINUTES)

Begin by having your group prayerfully listen, with eyes closed, to “God is Love” on the Musical Reflections CD. Then have a concluding prayer.

Today’s session is a continuation of our study on God’s love. Dr. Bright closed our last video session with Ephesians 3:17,18: “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

- ❓ Why do you think it is so difficult for us to grasp the full extent of God’s love?
- ❓ In what ways do we communicate God’s love to others?

BIBLE STUDY (17 MINUTES)

Our Bible Study today will help us focus on how God’s love is demonstrated as we consider several individuals whose lives were filled with godly love. Please turn to page 57 in your Study Guide and let’s see what we can learn from their experiences.

**VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT:
 NO GREATER LOVE (8 MINUTES)**

LIFE APPLICATION (8 MINUTES)

- ❓ Have you ever encountered a love similar to the one depicted in today’s video session?
- ❓ What thoughts and feelings did you have during this video?
- ❓ How often do you consider God’s sacrificial love for you?

CLOSING PRAYER (4 MINUTES)

Let’s turn to the Life Application step “Obey God” found on page 60 in your Study Guide. The question for us is, “Who are the individuals in your life whom you have difficulty loving?” Take a few moments to write down the people in your life whom you have a problem loving.

Give everyone a few moments to think and write.

Now we’re going to take some time to individually pray for the people on our lists. Ask God to fill you with His love as you seek to demonstrate love in your relationship with that person.

After a minute of silent prayer, lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 20
GOD IS LOVE (B)
Bible Study



1. Love rejoices when God blesses others, even at our expense.

Read 1 Samuel 18:1–4; 19:1–5; 20:12–17; 30–34.

- a. How did Jonathan show love to his friend David?
- b. What reasons did Jonathan have to be jealous of David?
- c. How did Jonathan keep from becoming jealous?
- d. Is jealousy ruining a relationship in your life? What can you do to help change your attitude?

2. Love humbly serves others.

Read John 13:1–17.

- a. How did Jesus show love to His disciples (even Judas)?
- b. Why was Jesus' action so surprising?
- c. What aspect of love was Jesus modeling?
- d. How can you demonstrate this love in your life?

3. Love willingly sacrifices for the greater good.

Read Acts 20:28–31; 1 Thessalonians 3:6–10; 2 Corinthians 11:28,29.

- a. How did Paul demonstrate his deep love to the churches to whom he ministered?
- b. Have you ever been moved to tears for your church? When?
- c. What are ways you can show love to your local body of believers? To believers around the world?
- d. Is something such as a critical spirit, jealousy, or fear of commitment getting in the way of your loving other believers as you should? What do you need to do to begin to change your attitudes and behavior?

SESSION 20
GOD IS LOVE (B)
Life Application



WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART

Memorize the following statement and verses. As you encounter situations this week where you need to remember that God loves you, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God is love, He is unconditionally committed to my well-being.
- 1 John 4:16—“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in Him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.”
- Romans 8:39—“Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

EXALT YOUR GOD

Worship our loving God through the words of the hymn *May the Mind of Christ My Savior*:

May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
 Live in me from day to day,
 By His love and power controlling
 All I do and say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
 In my heart from hour to hour,
 So that all may see I triumph
 Only through His power.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
 As the waters fill the sea;
 Him exalting, self abasing—
 This is victory.

May His beauty rest upon me
 As I seek the lost to win,
 And may they forget the channel,
 Seeing only Him.

Praise God for the many ways He displays love in your life.

REFLECT HIS IMAGE

Meditate on 1 Corinthians 13, inserting your name in place of the word “love.” By faith, ask God to develop these qualities in you.

Life Application (continued)

COUNT ON GOD

God gives a wonderful promise in Romans 8:38,39. As you read these verses, consider the struggles and worries in your life. Trust your compassionate God to lovingly sustain you no matter what your circumstance.

OBEY GOD

Who are the individuals in your life whom you have difficulty loving?

Do not wait until you “feel” like loving them. Love is much more than a feeling, and often we must first love them by faith. Begin by praying for those individuals. Then, actively reach out to them in a display of kindness. You will be surprised how quickly the “feeling” of love may soon follow. Obey God and determine to love even the “unlovable” today.

SHARE HIS MAJESTY

Is there someone in your life who needs to know how much God loves him? Tell that person that someone loves him perfectly and unselfishly—our loving Creator. Look for ways to demonstrate God’s love to your friend.

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 21 “God Helps Us Spread His Love”

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

