

# Showing the Love of God

The love of God does things to people; it can't help but shine out in surprising ways.

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**BIBLE  
SOCIETY**

Live light

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: NIV

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question
1	<b>Let your light shine before others</b> 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'	Matthew 5:14-16	God is doing a work in us that should not, indeed it cannot, be hidden. Like a city sitting on the top of a hill, it is impossible to hide. And even if we could hide it, why would we do that? It would be like turning on a light, just to then cover it up. The light is on. So let it shine. And why? So that other can see the good that we do and give all glory to our good God.
2	<b>Rejoice and let your gentleness be evident to all</b> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.	Philippians 4:4-5	There is joy in the Lord that is ours for the taking. Forever joy that surrounds us and changes the way we live in this world. We are told to take joy and live gently with others. Like light in a lamp, let your gentleness shine, always mindful that the source of our joy is near us. <b>How can you make your gentleness show to those around you?</b>
3	<b>By your love, everyone will know...</b> 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'	John 13:34-35	Our love for one another is to shine out in a dark world. Like light. The Lord has called us to a new life in him, a life marked by light, rather than darkness, gentleness over harshness, and love rather than death. And, so that we can know how to love, we look to Jesus who showed us how by suffering and dying for us. <b>What would it look like today to show love to others as Christ has loved?</b>

# Showing the Love of God (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question
4	<p><b>Your wisdom...</b></p> <p>Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?</p>	Deuteronomy 4:6-7	<p>Something happens when you keep scripture close and keep speaking to God in prayer. Not only is the Lord God nearby when we pray, his words are beautiful evidence of his closeness to us, and his care for us. He has written to us, and as we read his words we draw close to him, tracing each word, each syllable, back to its source, who is our source as well: the Lord our God. We show his closeness by drawing close ourselves. We show that we have the wisdom to understand what he is saying to us.</p>
5	<p><b>How to become great...</b></p> <p>Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'</p>	Mark 10:42-45	<p>Jesus turns the world's notion of greatness on its head. Greatness isn't lording it over others, but rather, serving them. The love of Christ in our life shows itself in surprising ways, such as in serving others. Like Christ, we have the opportunity and obligation to defy all worldly expectations of what greatness looks like.</p> <p><b>Christ served others by giving up his life for them, how can we confound the world around us in service?</b></p>
6	<p><b>How to endure...</b></p> <p>But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.</p>	2 Corinthians 4:7-9	<p>We are frail beings. Vessels of fragility that, on the surface, wouldn't seem to be able to withstand most pressures in this life. Except for one thing. The thing we hold most dear. The treasure cradled in our brokenness...the gift of Christ's enduring love. Because of this we can be strong and endure all manner of hardships.</p> <p><b>How does the treasure of salvation help you weather through hardship?</b></p>

# Showing the Love of God (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question
7	<p><b>How to win some...</b></p> <p>Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.</p>	1 Corinthians 9:19, 22-23	<p>There is an outward, visible change in the Christ-filled life. It is not a triumphing of self, but rather, a serving of others. This service is one of humility. For Paul, this meant a humbling of the self to become like those around him, so that they would be more receptive to the good news of Christ.</p> <p><b>How can you show weakness to others for the sake of Christ?</b></p>
8	<p><b>How to share your lives as well...</b></p> <p>Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.</p>	1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 11-12	<p>Showing the love of Christ to others is a work of tenderness, not a cold passage of information from person to person. It is care and comfort and encouragement. The kind of active, brooding care that a parent has for a child. It takes your imagination, your time, your love. It takes your life.</p> <p><b>What are ways that you can share your life with and tenderly care for others?</b></p>
9	<p><b>How to grieve...</b></p> <p>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.</p>	1 Thessalonians 4:13-14	<p>Christ changes everything about our life, even our grief. His death and resurrection assures us that death can never have the last word. If we have life in Christ, then we are able to hope even in the face of death. For we know that after the night of death comes the glorious morning of resurrection. So let the knowledge of the resurrection change the state of our tears.</p>
10	<p><b>How to live...</b></p> <p>You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.</p>	1 Thessalonians 5:5-6,8	<p>What does it look like to live in the light? We are daylight creatures, called to wake up, get out of bed, and put on the clothes God has set out for us. There is armour at the foot of our beds all ready for us to wear: faith, love, and the bright hope of salvation. This is his gift to us that protects us and strengthens us each day.</p> <p><b>How do the clothes that God has made for you change the way you go about your day?</b></p>

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11	<p><b>How to love...</b></p> <p>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.</p>	1 John 4:7,9-11	Our lives are to be marked by love. Infused with it, so that it can't help but spill out into the lives of others. And we are not just told to love one another, nor are we merely shown an example of love, but we-are-loved! He loves us. So much that he would purpose-send his Son to save us though his death. His love compels us to love others.
12	<p><b>Live such good lives...</b></p> <p>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.</p>	1 Peter 2:11-12	Not many of us enjoy feeling like a stranger. We do what we can to hide the markings of our difference. But what if our true home demands our difference, claims our strangeness, calls us to stick out like sore thumbs? That is what it is to be a citizen of the kingdom of God. We're called to live lives so good that we can't help but stick out. And not only that, lives so good that those around us can also come to glorify God. We should stick out like sore thumbs, for all the right reasons.
13	<p><b>Enjoying the favour of the people...</b></p> <p>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.</p>	Acts 2:42,44,46-47	<p>Our lives should look different, both individually, and also corporately. Showing the love of Christ to others isn't just about what we do by ourselves, but how we live in unity and gladness with other believers. Devoting ourselves, together, to the word of God and expressions of fellowship. Together with other believers we share a vibrant faith that should be expressed with confidence both inside our homes and in the public square.</p> <p><b>How can you use your home and your work in your devotion to God?</b></p>

# Showing the Love of God (continued)

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14	<p><b>When they saw the courage...</b></p> <p>When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. 'What are we going to do with these men?' they asked. 'Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.'</p>	Acts 4:13-17	<p>There's power in the resurrection of Jesus. Strange power. Astonishing power. The sound of his name makes lame feet strong and turns them to leap in praise. It makes feeble hearts bold and full of courage. It strikes fear in the hearts of those clinging to the old order of things that is passing away. The power of Christ's resurrection emboldens us. We too can have the courage of faith that shocks and surprises.</p>