

# The Love of God

This study is designed for a small group setting. Feel free to adapt it to fit your group.

**Objectives** – at the end of the lesson, the participants will be able to

- list verses that express God’s love for them
- be comforted by God’s love in a specific way
- commit to looking for God’s love in the coming week

## Launch Question

**What characteristic of God has been most comforting to you these past several weeks?**

## Introduction

**Let’s spend a few minutes reflecting on one of his characteristics — the love of God.**

## Questions

Have people, who feel comfortable reading aloud, read the following verses (from the ESV).  
(There is a decorated copy of the verses at the end of the study if you prefer that.)

- Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples. Deut. 10:15
- Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Is. 43:4
- The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Jer. 31:3
- But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
- As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. John 15:9
- In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will. Eph. 1:5
- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us ... made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved. Eph. 2:4-5
- In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ... We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ... There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. 1 John 4: 9, 16, 18

**What do you notice about God's love in these verses?**

**What are some of the results of God's love?**

**What are some barriers that get in the way of experiencing God's love for you?**

**In what specific ways do you see God demonstrating his love for you the past few weeks?**

**How can you delight in God's love this week?**

**How does God's love for you equip you for ministering to others?**

## Summary

When we live experiencing God's love for us, then life's circumstances, life's responsibilities and life's burdens cease to weigh us down as tightly because we know that in all these things, we are loved by God. We are held by him; we are inscribed on the palm of his hand. Just as a mother cannot forget her nursing child, he cannot/does not forget us. We are loved by a God who was even willing to send his beloved son away from himself to walk among us, to bear our sin, to redeem us. That is great love!

Listen as I play "How Deep the Father's Love for Us." As you listen, allow God's love to wash over you. One version I like is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vmY2ztb5xc>.

## Prayer

Let us respond to his love by worshipping him together in prayer. Pray as you feel led.

If desired, end the prayer time with the following prayer:

O Father, we are overwhelmed as we consider how much you love us. We are aware that it is nothing in us that causes you to love us. You loved us when we were still sinners. We see your love fully exhibited upon the cross. Remind us, Lord, that just as there is nothing we did to deserve or earn your love, there is nothing we can do that will remove your love from us. Father, we are so grateful. Help us to know and experience the love you have for us. May all we do flow out of your love for us. Let all of our actions be a reaction to your love for us. Amen.

## The Love of God

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