



S3 SUMMER ENCORE

How to Love Like Jesus

Talk About It

How do you love?

What are some ways our Father has shown His love for you this year?



LEARN • LIVE • LEAD

Learn

Read 1 John 4:7-8 (NRSV)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Therefore since we know that love comes from God the answer to “how to love” is very simple. We must first let God pour out His love into us so that we can pour out that same love to others. In order for us to give anything we must first receive. Jesus said to his disciples, “Freely you have received. Freely Give” (Matthew 10:8 NASB)

Once we allow God to pour Himself into us it’s so easy to love people! Serving people no longer becomes a burden but a true joy! It’s the most edifying thing in the world and nothing takes the place of it. The way to open your heart to receive the love of God deep into your heart is through prayer and studying the Word for the purpose of knowing God, not to memorize Scripture to brag because “love does not brag and is not arrogant” 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NASB).

1. When the Father pours out His love into us what do you think happens to our desires?
2. Do you accept His love or do you reject it? Knowingly or willingly?
3. How does God’s love change the order in our lives and our priorities?
4. If you accept His love does it spark a child-like worry free mentality?

Live

Jesus tells you, “Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me” (John 14:1 NKJV)

When we study Scripture to know God we start to become like Him. We have to understand love more so that we can visually see if what we are giving is genuine love.

For example, you may say “I love people” and that’s awesome! But have you ever been offended by what they have done, maybe so much so that you even lost your temper?

1 Corinthians 13:5 says love “is not provoked...”

5. When you see someone in the hallway do you remember the wrong things they did to you in the past? Share and Discuss.

1 Corinthians 13:5 also says love “...does not take into account a wrong suffered...” meaning if you truly love people, how can they ever make you angry or move you to bitterness toward them?

Honestly speaking—that seems a little impossible doesn’t it?

The truth is that it is truly impossible if you are trying to do this on your own. This is where the power of God can bring a transformation of your heart and motives.

Jesus said “*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*” (John 15:4-6 NASB)

6. Do you notice the emphasis Jesus makes on the fact that we cannot do anything without first abiding in Him? Discuss.

It means in order for us to truly live a life of love we *have* to rely on Jesus. No branch can bear fruit by itself unless that branch (us) abides in the vine (Him).

7. Did you learn something you didn’t know before?

8. Do you have a set time you spend with the Lord?

Lead

How do you “abide in the vine?” The way this is accomplished is by going into your room and hushing your soul and simply saying, “Lord I want to abide in you.” When you reach this place of intimacy (which is for everyone) where you become so engulfed in His presence – no one can provoke you or cause you to be offended because you are called to them – they are not called to you.

It’s not about what someone can do for you either because God already gave you everything in Christ. Now it’s just about loving people with the same love and sincerity Christ has for you. But you’ll never truly know it unless you abide in Him through prayer and reading of the Word.

9. How can spending more time with the Lord and allowing Him to flow through you make it a lot easier to do things that are normally pretty difficult?

True Story

Student Testimony, Jonathan Orona

I was pumping gas and on the other end of the pump I saw a couple (probably around 45-50 old) who really looked to be suffering. There was a look of pain and even shame on their faces. My heart began to ache because of them and I remember thinking to myself, "How can I not say something!?" So I moved to the side of the pump so that the man could see completely and just struck up a conversation with him.

After the conversation I was like, "Hey Jesus loves you!" He looked back and was like, "I don't believe in Jesus so he's not real." I replied with something along the lines of "that doesn't change the truth of it and he'll forgive you of anything you've ever done" He didn't like that very much because he started getting really angry and practically yelling at me...but I just stood there with a look of compassion for him because he doesn't understand what I see and he doesn't know who Jesus really is. He doesn't understand that God has such a high opinion of him. He doesn't understand that God believes him to be worth every drop of the blood of Jesus.

So I kept filling up the tank and as I was walking away I said, "God bless you sir!" And he was like "which God!?" And so now I'm thinking he wants to maybe reason together (which I am all for) so I walk back over to him but when I stand where I was before (approximately 15ft away) he starts cussing me out and this time he is being very loud. He was obviously trying to scare me off or something, but I stood firm and the reason why was because if love is the only thing that can truly change him...then he must see and know that I am doing this for him and not for me. If I am doing this for me I would've already left saying "sorry...sir...didn't mean to offend you..." but since what I am doing is out of love for this man I can look at him dead in the face even while he is cussing me out and still love him. Why? Because, while I was sinning God still loved me.