

ANSWERS: Who Is God?: Lesson 3 God Is Love

Learning to know and love God for who He is, His character, attributes and being

Lesson 3: God Is Love (Day One) Love comes from God

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

1. Read 1 John 4:7. Where does love come from?

God

There can be different kinds of love and various definitions. For example, we could distinguish between a parent or a friend's love. However, we are going to work with a general definition. It is the definition for the Greek word agape (ἀγάπη) translated love in English.

Definition: Love is the quality of warm regard for and interest in another. Love is also strong affection and unselfish concern for another. It usually includes a deep personal attachment.

Read John 17:24 and answer questions 2-5:

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." John 17:24

2. Jesus is talking to God. What is the name Jesus uses to talk with God?

Father

3. What kind of relationship *should* the name father describe?

A loving relationship with a parent who provides, protects, listens, and communicates well. The father even disciplines in love and for the good of the child.

4. What kind of a relationship did you have with your earthly father? Comment on past and present relationship.

Personal Answer

5. How long has God the Father loved God the Son?

Since before the creation of the world. Forever.

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And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. John 17:5

6. Read John 17:5. Was Jesus with the Father before the world began? Yes No (Circle One)

Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. ⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. ⁵ who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. ⁶ who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:3-6

7. Read Psalm 136:3-6. Why do we give thanks to God, the Lord of lords?

Main answer: His love endures forever. Also, He alone does great wonders and by His understanding made the heavens and the earth.

8. Do you trust or believe that God truly loves you? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

CLI Bible Minister: If the answer is no or maybe, please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in making appropriate and helpful comments on this learner's personal need to trust in God's love. Let your learner know that you are praying for him or her.

If the learner answered yes, praise God with him or her for how God has revealed His love.

9. Personal Application: Write your memory verse, Jeremiah 31:3, word for word without looking at your Bible or notes:

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." Jeremiah 31:3

10. I prayed the written prayer from my heart: Yes No (Circle One)

Heavenly Father, Thank You for this lesson on love. Please use this lesson to show Your love to me. Help me to know and love You in return. Give me the faith to believe in You and Your perfect and everlasting love for me. Amen.

CLI Bible Minister: Personal Answer. But if answered no, please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in making appropriate and helpful comments on this learner's unwillingness to pray. Also pray God will impress upon your learner's heart His vast love for him or her. Thank you.

Lesson 3: God Is Love (Day Two) God has Feelings and Emotions

11. Please share a time when your love for someone was not returned:

Personal Answer. Please make an understanding comment. Your learner may be sharing raw and tender feelings. Memories may be hurtful.

Definition: Grieve means to feel or show pain, sorrow and grief.

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How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the wasteland!
Psalm 78:40

Definition: Rebel means to oppose or fight against a person or group in authority.

12. Read Psalm 78:40. The Israelites rebelled against God and caused Him to grieve _____.

13. Have you ever thought how your actions may affect God? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

14. How do *you* love God back?

Personal Answer. But here are answers from this lesson:

There are many ways to love God. One way of loving God is particularly important. We need to obey Him. Both the Old Testament (Exodus 19:15; Deuteronomy 11:1; Jeremiah 7:23) and the New Testament (John 14:15, 14:23, 15:14; 1 Peter 1:2) makes this clear.

Another way to love God is to love our neighbor. A neighbor is anyone in need. We love God by helping the hungry, stranger, poor, sick, imprisoned, hurt, injured, weak, orphan, widow, blind, lame, needy, grieving, and foreigner (Matthew 25:35-45; Luke 10:25-37; Acts 20:35; James 1:27; Job 29:11-17; Psalm 10:14, 146:9; Isaiah 58:7-8). A challenging way to love God is by loving and helping our enemy (Matthew 5:43-48).

Personal Application: Prayerfully consider three ways to express your love to our triune God. Practice each one over the next three days and write about it.

15. List each way you are practicing to love God and write about the experience:

Questions 1-3: Personal Answer for all three. Comment appropriately.

16. It would be a worthy life goal to explore and practice loving God. Will you make this a life goal (aim, purpose)? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Personal Answer.

Read Hosea 11:1-2 and answer questions 17-21:

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them."

Hosea 11:1-4 (Ephraim is another name for Israel, the northern kingdom.)

17. How does God refer to the people of Israel (v. 1)?

A son or sons.

18. How did God feel about the people of Israel (v. 1)?

God loved them.

19. How did Israel go away from God (v. 2)?

They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. Or simply turned to idols.

20. Who taught and healed Israel (v. 3)?

God

21. How did God lead the people of Israel (v. 4)?

God led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5

22. Read Colossians 3:5. What are some of the things that belong to our earthly nature and are idolatrous?

Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed.

Read Matthew 23:37 and answer questions 23-24:

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing." Matthew 23:37 (Prophet is a person who speaks for God.)

Note: Jerusalem was city where God' temple was located. It was the center of Jewish worship. In this context, Jerusalem is used figuratively to include the Jewish people (formerly called the Israelites) and their religious leaders.

23. How are Jesus' words to the people similar (alike) to God the Father's words to the people in Hosea 11:1-4?

Calling and longing for a loving relationship with the people but they were not willing. The people do evil and turn away from God.

From the lesson: God the Son, like the Father, expressed His love for the people and His sadness over their sin. God wants a loving relationship with us, but many are unwilling to accept it. We would rather go our own way. Which is the wrong way and the way to destruction.

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He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Isaiah 53:3

24. Read and meditate (think deeply) on Isaiah 53:3. How do these words about Jesus express His love for you?

Personal Answer. Some thoughts: Jesus willingly suffered and put my welfare above His own. He experienced both physical and emotional pain (rejection) for my benefit. Benefits include salvation, personal relationship with God, example to follow and His teaching us how to live.

Lesson 3: God Is Love (Day Three) *God sends His Love*

Read John 3:16 and answer questions 25-27:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (World means all people in this verse.)

25. Does God love you? **Yes** No (Circle One)

26. How did God prove His love for you?

God gave His one and only Son Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins in order for us to have eternal life and escape His wrath.

27. How do you receive eternal or everlasting life?

Believe or trust in Jesus.

Bible reference in lesson:

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 1 John 2:2-3

Read 1 Peter 2:24 and answer 28-30:

"He (Jesus) himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24 (Parenthesis added)

28. Who bore or carried our sins in His body on the cross?

Jesus

29. How have you been healed of your sins?

By believing and accepting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for me.

30. Jesus died on the cross for your sins so that you would die to sins and live for righteousness.

Read John 10:11-15 and answer questions 31-35:

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father -- and I lay down my life for the sheep." John 10:9-15 (Jesus is speaking and using figurative language.)

31. Jesus says, "I am the gate." What is the meaning of His words: "whoever enters through me will be saved" (v.9)?

Jesus is the only way to salvation. Or the only way to heaven or eternal life. Jesus saves us from God's wrath. We enter by belief and trust in Jesus.

32. Who does the thief represent (v. 10)?

Satan, Lucifer, devil.

33. Who do the hired hands represent (vs. 12-13)?

False teachers; those who really do not care about the sheep (people).

34. Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his ____ **life** ____ for the sheep (v.11, 15)?

35. Who do the sheep represent (vs. 12-15)?

Believers; those people who follow and belong to Jesus.

Definition: God's wrath is His permanent attitude and response to human sins and injustice. The word wrath can also be described in other terms such as anger, fury, displeasure, and irritation.

Read Deuteronomy 9:7-8 and answer questions 36-37:

Remember this and never forget how you aroused the anger of the LORD your God in the wilderness. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the LORD.⁸ At Horeb you aroused the LORD's wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you. Deuteronomy 9:7-8 (Horeb is the location where Moses received the Ten Commandments and sometimes identified with Mt. Sinai.)

36. Moses is speaking to the Israelites. What does he want them to remember (v. 7)?

How they aroused the anger of the LORD in the wilderness and had been rebellious.

37. At Horeb you aroused the LORD's wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you (v. 8).

Bible references in lesson:

Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin." ³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.
Exodus 32:34-35

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:27

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12-13

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.
Revelation 20:15 (lake of fire is the same as hell)

38. Read Revelation 20:15. What happens to a person whose name is not written in the book of life?

Thrown into the lake of fire or hell.

The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Revelation 3:5

39. Read Revelation 3:5. How can you be sure that your name will never be blotted out of the book of life?

CLI Bible Minister: The answer is not directly in Revelation 3:5, but your learner should be able to acknowledge his or her victory lies in Christ. We can be sure our name is not blotted out of the book of life because we trust in Jesus.

Bible reference in lesson:

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Revelation 13:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

40. Read Romans 5:8. How does learning about God's wrath also prove His incredible love?

While we were still sinners and deserving of God's wrath, Christ died for us.

Lesson 3: God Is Love (Day Four) The Cross

Read Romans 1:18-32 (vs. 18-20 written below) and answer questions 41-43:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:18-20

41. What do people receive who hold back (suppress) the truth and do evil (v. 18)?

The wrath of God.

42. What are things we can know about God, even without the Bible (vs. 19-20)?

God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature.

43. Do people, anywhere on the earth or living at any time in history, have an excuse for not believing in Creator God (v. 20)? Yes **No** Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

Personal Answer: However, the Bible says that people are without excuse.

Read Jeremiah 32:30-33 and answer questions 44-46:

"The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the LORD. ³¹ From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight. ³² The people of Israel and Judah have provoked me by all the evil they have done-- they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem. ³³ They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline." Jeremiah 32:30-33 (After Solomon, Israel divided with Judah becoming the southern kingdom.)

44. Why was God angry with the people of Israel and Judah?

They did evil by making idols and turning their back to God. They would not listen or respond to discipline.

45. Underline God's response to the people for the evil they had done. What is one word you would use to describe God's attitude toward the people?

CLI Bible Minister: You will not see what your learner underlined but they should have a one word description such as anger, wrath, or even provoked.

46. Are people less sinful today then they were in Israel and Judah? Yes **No** (Circle One)

Read Romans 3:25-26 and answer questions 47-48:

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood -- to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished -- ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:25-26 (Atonement - to bring together as one those who were enemies. Forbearance - patience, restraint, mercy)

47. How did God demonstrate His righteousness (v. 25)?

He presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement to be received by faith.

48. Why did God let the sins committed before Jesus' death go unpunished (vs. 25-26)?

He did it to demonstrate his righteousness.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:9

49. Read Romans 5:9. How are you saved from God's wrath?

Through trusting in Jesus Christ and sacrifice.

Definition: Crucify is a verb describing an ancient punishment where a person was put to death by nailing or binding the wrists or hands and feet to a cross.

Definition: Revelation means the unveiling (uncovering) of something hidden. The revelation of God is defined as His process for making Himself known. This includes revealing His attributes, character, will, plans and nature. God can only be known through His revelation.

Bible references in lesson:

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me." John 5:39

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:43

Definition: The word redemption meant to pay a required price (ransom) for someone's release. For example, the price could be used for slaves, criminals or prisoners of war to be set free. Early Christians began using the word redemption to describe Jesus' death on the cross as a ransom for people under slavery to sin (Mark 10:45; John 8:34). Jesus is the Redeemer (Rescuer, Savior).

Bible references in lesson:

"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." Mark 10:45

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. John 8:34

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead -- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10 (Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9 from you Bible.)

50. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10. Who saves us from the coming wrath?

Bible reference in lesson:

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and answer questions 51-53:

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (compel - oblige, hold fast)

51. Why does Christ's love compel us to live for Him (v. 14)?

Because He died for us and we have died to ourselves.

52. How do you live for Christ?

Personal Answer.

53. How do you live in loving union with God?

Personal Answer. However, next day's lesson is about union with God.

Lesson 3: God Is Love (Day Five) *Union with God*

Bible references in lesson:

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^d his Spirit who lives in you. Romans 8:11

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

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On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
John 14:20

Read 1 John 4:9-10 and answer questions 54-55:

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.¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

54. How did God show His love among us (v.9)?

He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

55. What is love (v.10)?

God sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

"I will bring him near and he will come close to me-- for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?" declares the LORD.²² "So you will be my people, and I will be your God. "
Jeremiah 30:21b-22

56. Read Jeremiah 30:21b-22. What does God promise for those He brings near?

They will come close to Him.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

57. Read Galatians 2:20. How does the Apostle Paul live?

He lives by faith in the Son of God.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:17 and Romans 8:11, 14 and pray for a holy and vibrant (lively, deep, bright) union with God:

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
Romans 8:11

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:14

58. I have prayed for a holy and vibrant union with God? Yes No (Circle One)

Personal Answer. CLI Bible Minister: Your learner may feel they have prayed in the past and do not need to pray again. But if he or she answers "no," please pray and probe with gentle questions such as, "Is there a reason you do not want to pray for a union with God?" or "Are you clear on the meaning of having a close union with God?"

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.. 1 John 4:16

59. Read 1 John 4:16. What can we rely on?

We can rely on the love God has for us.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

60. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. How should we treat others?

In love by following God's example.

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. ⁶ Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals. Psalm 36:5-6

61. Read and meditate on Psalm 36:5-6. Describe God's love in your own words:

Personal Answer

62. Write Psalm 52:8-9 from memory without looking at it: _____

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. ⁹ For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people. And I will hope in your name, for your name is good.

-End of Lesson Three Answers-

Next Lesson 4: Who is God? God is Sovereign

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