The Gathering Lesson: His Great Love

Presenter:	Angela Davis
Today's Lesson:	Our study today is on the Father's love.
	And is titled: His Great Love
Our Verses for Today: Psalms 103:11-13 TPT	[11] Higher than the highest heavens— that's how high your tender mercy extends! Greater than the grandeur of heaven above is the greatness of your loyal love, towering over all who fear you and bow down before you! [12] Farther than from a sunrise to a sunset— that's how far you've removed our guilt from us. [13] The same way a loving father feels toward his children— that's but a sample of your tender feelings toward us, your beloved children, who live in awe of you.
Genesis 1:26 NKJV ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[a] all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."	God's love is greater, grander, more encompassing than most of us can understand. His love for us is evident from the very beginning - He created an entire world the heavens, the sea, the ground, the creatures and animals and created man in His image (Genesis 1:26a) and then He said, "let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth (Genesis 1:26b).
Definition of Dominion:	You might be thinking, what is Dominion: Dominion" in Hebrew means to rule or to have power. God intended for man to rule and to have full authority over the planet. From the beginning, God intended man to be special, set above and have authority to carry out His will on earth.
Malachi 3:6a AMPC "For I am the LORD I do not change:" and	God's love for us transcends all time. We read that God is the same yesterday, today and forever - God does not change. Nor has His will for us changed.

Revelation 1:8 AMPC

[8] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End, says the Lord God, He Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty (the Ruler of all).

Definition of Steadfast:

Isaiah 54:10 AMPC [10] For though the mountains should depart, and the hills be shaken or removed, yet My love and kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace and completeness be removed, says the

Psalm 139:16 Psalms NKJV

Lord, who has compassion on you.

[16] Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book, they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

Galatians 1:15 NLT

[15] But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him

Romans 8:29 TPT

[29] For he knew all about us before we were born, and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him.

Ephesians 1:4 TPT

[4] And in love he chose us before he laid the foundation of the universe! Because of his great love, he ordained us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. God's love is steadfast and cannot be taken away from you.

According to dictionary.com, steadfast means to be fixed or firm in a direction or purpose – unwavering. The word for steadfast in the original Hebrew is chesed (pronounced kheh'-sed) and it refers to God's devout loving-kindness, mercy, and faithfulness at the very core of His character and actions.

So, if God never changes, and His love for you is steadfast, unwavering then we can conclude that He loves you today as He did when you were formed.

It says in His Word that He knew you before you were ever formed. Not only did He know you, but He loved you from the beginning and designed and fashioned a wonderful plan for your life.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 1 TPT

[4] Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. [5] Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. [6] Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. [7] Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.

God is love; it is His character. God is the essence of love. And we were designed to be like Him so we too should exhibit these characteristics as we see In

John 3:16 NKJV

[16] For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

While this is how we were designed to be like God, and have these same type attributes, sin has gotten in the way. We are all born in this life with the sin-nature because of the fall in the Garden by Adam and Eve. But God... God is holy, just, and cannot ignore sin, yet He always desired us to be a part of His family, so He made a way for us to be restored to be made righteous and be included in His loving plan for His children.

God demonstrates His great love for us in many tangible ways. However, the primary and greatest demonstration of His love was to send His son Jesus to who was born of a virgin, to live as a man sinless and blameless, and then sacrifice Himself on the cross to pay for our sins once and for all. And even now, Jesus is alive, raised to life by our Heavenly Father and is setting at the right-hand of the Father interceding for us daily.

This amazing act of love made it possible for us, if we choose to ask Jesus into our life and make Him Lord and Savior, then we can be reconciled back to our Heavenly Father to be with Him for all eternity, never again separated from Him.

	We have learned God's love is immeasurable, it is enduring for all time, it is just, it is long suffering-patient, just so amazing. And best of all He loves us so much and desires us to be an integral part of His family that He made a way for us to choose to live with Him for all eternity.
--	--