

God Loves You (Expressing Our Love to God)

Discipleship is a Relationship

1. With God
2. With Family
3. With the Church
4. With the Lost

Suggested Memory Verses

Psalm 101:3	Psalm 119:97
Matthew 6:33	John 14:15, 23
Colossians 3:5-10	1 John 3:16

Purpose: To convince someone of God's love and how they can love God

Question: What is something everyone is looking for? Consider some of the places they look for this.

Read 1 John 3:16; Jesus laid down His life for you. Also, read John 3:16; Romans 5:7
What comes first – Man's love for God or God's love for man?

Read carefully the following illustration:

A father had one son. The father was a drawbridge operator for a railroad. He brought his five-year-old son to work one day. The son got his leg caught in the bridge gears and cried out for his father to help him. A radio call came in to notify the father that a train was coming. The father was forced with a decision, either to go get his son out of the gears and let the 1000 people on the train die, or pull the lever, allowing the train to pass through, thus killing his son. In agony, he pulls the lever, crushing his son. He cries out and agonizes over his son. As the train roars by the father watches as some look at the son and then **look away**, some are **too busy** to notice, some **laugh**, others **mock**, others are **hurt and want to repay the father**.

A. This story illustrates five basic ways people respond to the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ by God His Father. What are they?

B. When it comes to your response to God our Father's love, who have you been on the train?

C. Who are you most like on the train now?

Question: How do you think the father felt when he saw those people? How do you think God must feel? He sacrificed His Son. Consider the beatings and the crucifixion; what does God want from us in return?

(God Loves You Continued)

FIVE EXPRESSIONS OF OUR LOVE TO GOD

I. SEEKING GOD (Matthew 6:33)

A. What are some of the ways you are seeking God?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

B. Is your quiet time helping you to seek God?

II. HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER GOD (Psalm 119:97; Psalm 63:1; Proverbs 2:4-5; Psalm 42:1-2)

A. Taking a long walk on a very hot day, and thinking of a nice cool drink. (I just can't wait!)

B. The same desire applies to your spiritual life. (It's the "I just can't wait!" attitude. That is spiritual refreshment.) What is in your spiritual ice chest that you just can't wait to enjoy? (Psalm 63:1)

III. OBEDIENCE (John 14:15, 23)

A. It is a joy to love and to serve God

B. True love for God is not a burden (1 John 5:3)

IV. LIVING A HOLY LIFE (1 Thessalonians 4:7)

A. How do we become holy? Colossians 3:5-10

B. Man's sin drove the nails in Jesus' hands (Hebrews 10:26)

C. In reality, who does our sin hurt the most deeply? (Genesis 39:9)

V. LOVING OTHERS (1 John 4:19-21)

A. Our love for God is equated with our love for one another

B. How are your relationships with others?

1. Your Family? _____

2. The Church? _____

3. The Lost? _____

(God Loves You Continued)

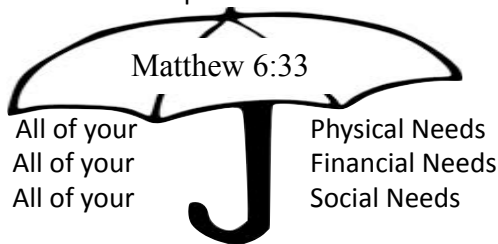
HOW AM I GOING TO DO IT?

I. Let's look at the basic needs of man:

- A. Physical needs
- B. Social needs
- C. Financial needs
- D. Spiritual needs

II. What is wrong with the above order? (Matthew 6:33)

III. Let's look at God's spiritual umbrella.



All of your needs come under the protection of this spiritual umbrella.

We must get under the umbrella and stay under it, especially when circumstances are difficult. (Psalm 56:3)

IV. How am I going to do it?

- A. By putting God first
- B. By allowing His spiritual umbrella to protect you

Drawing conclusions and challenges from the "Love of God" study:

- A. Do you believe God loves you? How? (Romans 5:8)
- B. Are you willing to love God in return? How? (Remember Romans 5:8)