



SHARING GOD'S LOVE

LESSON 3

“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we make disciples by sharing God’s love.”

GETTING STARTED:

Where did you experience God’s love this week?

DIGGING DEEPER:

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

Again, John writes, **I John 4:12** *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

Question: Love is mentioned 32 times in John’s letter. How would you describe love?

- a. A Warm Feeling
- b. Brotherly Obligation
- c. Sacrificial Action
- d. Material Giving
- e. Absence of Malice
- f. Forgiveness of Sins
- g. All of the Above

Question: Is Christian love different from the love of those who do not know Christ? If so how?

St. Paul describes God’s love this way: **Romans 8:31-32; 37-39** - *“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. How will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things.”* Again, he wrote: *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Question: What gives us confidence that God loves us? How can others be confident that we love them?

Love is the authentic sign of our Christian faith. Love is also a free and undeserved gift, which God gives to us. Someone said, “You can’t do anything to make God love you, and you can’t do anything to make God stop loving you.” This is the remarkable good news Jesus shared with us.

Question: “People do not care what you know, until they know that you care.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why are loving relationships the key to the sharing of the Gospel?

Question: Empty Buckets can’t offer water to anyone. When your heart is empty, where do you go to find renewal? What do you do to help yourself?

If we are going to love others it starts with each of us believing God’s love for us in Jesus Christ is true. Buckets do not fill themselves. Someone has to fill them for us. God fills our hearts with His love so that we can share His love with others. And since the source of God’s love is limitless, the more we share His love the more we receive it. Like a fire brigade that begins with God filling our bucket, the more we give His love away, the more He keeps filling our lives with His love. Love grows!

APPLICATION:

“The sure test of our conversion is spontaneous love. It doesn’t have to be plotted or planned. It flows naturally from being loved. Nothing is more convincing to others that we’ve turned around than the warmth of costly love they feel in our presence.” - Lloyd John Ogilvie “Life as it was Meant to Be”

Read aloud I Corinthians 13:4-8 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

Question: Look at the words that Paul uses to describe love. Which of these words best describe your love for others? Which word describes where you still need to grow in loving others? Now read the passage again only in place of the word love insert God. God is patient...

CHALLENGE:

Identify one person with whom you would like to strengthen your relationship who is not involved a church. This week ask God to help you to show His love to him/her and take at least one action to show him/her you care.