## LEADER'S GUIDE







#### **About Every Home for Christ**

Every Home for Christ is an international missions organization with 178 ministry offices around the world. Since 1946, Every Home for Christ has been serving the Church by equipping and mobilizing believers to participate in sharing the love of Jesus with every person on earth.

For more information, visit **EveryHome.org** 

### DEAR PASTOR,



Every Home for Christ thanks you for teaming up with us and joining the servants of God committed to helping fulfill the Great Commission worldwide. We believe the Love Your Neighbor Kit will make a tremendous impact in our communities and will allow us to do our part to fulfill God's vision: "...not wanting anyone to perish..." 2 Peter 3:9.

The Love Your Neighbor kit has been facilitating the task of pastors, leaders, and church members to carry out more effective evangelism, mobilizing them in their respective areas of influence. It contains a series of tools designed to have a warmer approach that responds to people's real needs and demonstrates Christ's love more tangibly.

In this kit, **Deuteronomy 10:12** is the crucial biblical passage and reads: "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

The Love Your Neighbor kit contains a study guide that addresses precisely these four central themes: **fearing** God, **obeying**, **loving** and **serving** him. We are sure that our neighborhoods can greatly benefit if we develop this theme in a practical way, and we believe that each disciple of Christ who uses it will experience the power of God's Word in himself, which will motivate him to share it with others.

We are very excited about what God will do through this concerted effort that will bring more people to Christ. We already visualize thousands becoming fearful of God, coming to our churches to be discipled, baptized, and trained to share their faith. Eventually, in their day to day they will be obedient to his Word, love God and seek to serve him inside and outside the churches. Without a doubt, the harvest will be abundant.

Again, thank you for joining this effort and using the Love Your Neighbor mobilization kit.

Because each person counts, let's go to the last home.

Dr. Alejandro Oviedo Molina

Regional Director - Central America and the Caribbean WALK THRU THE BIBLE



### INTRODUCTION

#### Welcome to the Love Your Neighbor kit!

This kit is filled with resources to help you inspire and equip your church to love your neighbors. We believe that God has placed you and your church right where you are for this very reason: to love and reach out to the community around you.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the Pharisees that the greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor. Later, in **Luke 10:25-37**, an expert in the law asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responds with the Parable of the Good Samaritan and shows us that we can be neighbors to anyone who crosses our path. Go on a journey with us and learn how your church can continue to grow in practicing these two great commandments.

This Leader's Guide will offer a breakdown of everything in this kit. It also shares the vision of being a witness of Jesus. You can also download all the kit resources digitally by visiting **loveneighbor.com**. We pray this guide serves you well as you adopt this vision and lead your church.

In the Love Your Neighbor kit, you'll find 12 Individual Believer Packs to equip 12 members of your church to express the love of Jesus to at least one person every week. These packs are designed for you to share with individuals or families in your congregation who are just beginning their journey of loving their neighbors, not necessarily the passionate evangelists who are already engaging nonbelievers regularly.

All the biblical texts used in this guide for leaders are taken from the **New International Version** (Holy Bible NIV).



#### **INCLUDED IN EACH BELIEVER PACK IS:**







#### **Study Guide**

The Study Guide consists of twelve sessions that will help your church members grow in their relationship with Jesus and will encourage them to share his love with others. The challenge to fear, obey, love, and serve God found in Deuteronomy 10:12 seeks to motivate believers to share Christ as a genuine response to having a personal relationship with him.

#### **Prayer Map**

The Prayer Map is a tool that will help you pray daily for your nation, your neighbors, and your own needs. This resource is an excellent tool to teach and inspire your congregation to pray. We believe that the degree to which you adopt this tool yourself will be the degree to which you will see it impact your church.

#### **Commitment Bookmark**

The Commitment Bookmark is located on the first page of the study guide and is for everyone to keep as a reminder of their dedication to living out the two great commandments. The back of the bookmark can be used to write the names of the people you commit to pray for.

#### **Engagers**

Every week, as your church members pray for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with their neighbors, they can utilize these Engagers. An Engager is a printed resource that leads to a follow-up website where neighbors can learn more about Jesus. The purpose of an Engager is not to avoid having a personal conversation with someone. Instead, it is a tool to provide your neighbor with the next step they can take in their faith journey. The Believer Pack has two Engager themes.

- 26 God's Endless Love Engagers
- 26 The Path to Eternal Life Engagers

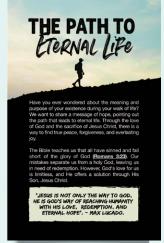
#### **Bulk Quantities of Engagers**

You'll find four bundles of Engagers at the bottom of the Love Your Neighbor kit. We provide large amounts of these materials (100 per kit) allowing you to plan outreach events in your community. You can invite your entire congregation to participate or partner with other churches and organizations.

#### There are four different titles.

The first bulk pack is an Engager explicitly created for children called *God's Wonderful Creation*. This Engager invites children to discover God's Creation and how the Lord Jesus wants to be their friend and give them salvation. It could be used





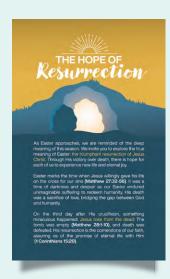
during a special event (such as a summer Bible school or church camp) to invite your neighbors' children to your congregation.

You'll also find an Engager, *The Gift that Changed the World Forever*, created uniquely for Christmas. Christmas is one of the most active times in the local church and a season when so many are open to hearing about Jesus. You can plan a unique Christmas outreach and invite people to a church service using the Engager.

The third bulk Engager is an Easter theme titled **The Hope of Resurrection**. This is another excellent time to use the momentum of the holiday to share the gospel and reach out to the community around you. You could mobilize your congregation for a special outreach that invites people to church or an Easter event.









The final bulk Engager is designed for Global Outreach (GO) Month, which occurs in May every year. During the entire month, millions of Christians worldwide pray for the harvest, care for people, and share the gospel. *The End of Times* Engager is a message of hope and preparation designed so you can participate in the GO Movement in your nation. Visit gomovement.world for more information.

Scan the QR code for continued encouragement and access to new digital resources.



#### 2024-2025 OUTREACH CALENDAR

An annual outreach calendar for your church is a great way to unite believers around a focused mission. Your congregation, or even multiple congregations and denominations, can plan and participate in events and outreaches together. Below is a sample you can use or you can even create your own!

**July 2024** 

Reaching Children

**December 2024** 

Christmas Outreaches

**January 2025** 

Prayer Focus

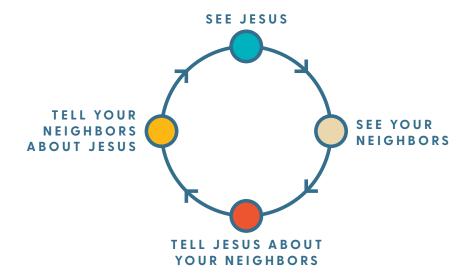
**March 2025** 

Easter Outreaches

May 2025
GO Month

### **WITNESS**

Our lives are changed when we walk with Jesus. The early disciples knew this very well. Day after day, their lives were transformed as they saw the sick healed and the dead raised. After all they'd seen, nobody had to coerce them into telling others about it. Evangelism for them wasn't forced; it was natural. It started with seeing Jesus and telling others about what they had seen. They were witnesses. Being a witness is a process that begins with seeing Jesus and the work he has done in our lives. Then, we get the opportunity to see our neighbors. This process then turns into us talking to Jesus and telling him about our neighbors in the place of prayer. Over time, there comes a moment when we are given the opportunity to tell our neighbors about Jesus and who he is in our lives. This isn't just one conversation but numerous interactions over time. We call this process See and Tell.



There are enough believers in the world that we would reach the entire world if every Christian shared Jesus with three people. Of course, it's not that simple. But it does mean it's not out of reach. Sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors begins with knowing their names, understanding their circumstances, praying for them, meeting their needs, and offering hope. This is our calling as followers of Jesus — sharing a message of love that meets our neighbors right where they are. It starts with us. Let's be a witness to our world.

#### See Jesus

Being a witness begins with our encounters with Jesus. Before we can see ourselves, those around us, or our world, we must have our eyes opened by the love of Jesus. We cannot carry a love we are not deeply, consistently, and intentionally experiencing for ourselves. Seeing Christ's love draws us into wholeness, fills us with hope, and opens our eyes to the people around us.

#### **See Your Neighbors**

Loving our neighbors starts with seeing our neighbors. We can't love someone without first having a genuine interest and care for their life. We should enter every conversation knowing that everyone has broken and hurting parts of their lives. Loving our neighbors is about seeing how they may experience pain and how we can comfort them.

#### **Tell Jesus about Your Neighbors**

Tell Jesus that you want to see your neighbors through his eyes. Pray for them and the things they are going through. Tell Jesus that you want to carry his heart for your neighbors.

#### **Tell Your Neighbors About Jesus**

When the time is right, tell your neighbors about Jesus in a personal way. It should not be confrontational, nor should it lead to conflict. Our role is to bring peace into people's lives and situations. We are not sharing Jesus with our neighbors to win an argument or to have them say a prayer of salvation. Our primary task is to help people see Jesus. A simple glimpse will often leave people wanting to pursue him more. Only God can move the hearts of people. Our role is to sow the seed. God's role is to bring the harvest.



To watch a video about how one person's dedication to Jesus and life of love can impact thousands, scan the QR code.



### INTRODUCTION

#### by Orlando Lara



In the book of Deuteronomy, we find a profound call to <u>fear</u> God, walk in <u>obedience</u>, <u>love</u> him wholeheartedly, and <u>serve</u> him faithfully. These principles form the basis of our Christian walk and invite us to share our faith with those around us. Through these sessions, we embark on an inspiring and transformative journey rooted in **Deuteronomy 10:12.** Let us heed God's invitation to share our faith with our neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and family members, reflecting God's love in our words and actions.

**Deuteronomy 10:12** sums up the core of our call: "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

Let's see the requirements that the Lord asked of the people of Israel and that he now demands of us: **fear, obedience, love** and **service**. Let's try to see them as a stairway, which, when you climb them, you can only go to the next stair if you step on the previous one.

**Fearing** God is not about trembling with terror but acknowledging his excellent majesty and holiness, shaping our reverence and obedience.

Walking in **obedience** to God's commandments is an outpouring of our fear of God. We demonstrate reverence and trust in his wisdom and guidance as we submit to his will and align our lives with His Word. Obedience becomes the natural response of a heart captivated by God's love and transformed by his grace.

Love is at the center of our Christian faith. God's love for us is limitless; as we grow in love for him, we are compelled to love others. Sharing our faith expresses this love, as we want others to experience the transforming power of God's grace and salvation. Love motivates us to bridge gaps, extend compassion, and meet the needs of those around us.

**Service** is an integral component of our Christian walk. By serving others, we reflect the selfless love of Christ. Our acts of service become tangible expressions of our faith, offering glimpses of God's character and drawing others closer to him. Through service, we demonstrate God's love in practical and impactful ways, making a lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors, classmates, co-workers and family members.

As we embark on this series of Bible studies, let us embrace the principles of <u>fear</u> of God, <u>obedience</u>, <u>love</u>, and <u>service</u>. May our reverence for God, obedience to his commandments, love for him, and service to others reflect the transforming work of his grace in our lives. With fire in our hearts, let us press on, inviting others to the abundant life found in Jesus Christ, knowing that by sharing our faith, we participate in God's redemptive plan for humanity.

## Laying the foundation in love for God: Deuteronomy 10:12 4 Blocks - 12 Sessions

1

#### Fear

- 1. What does the fear of the Lord mean?
- 2. Why should we fear The Lord?
- 3. The Result of Fearing The Lord

2

#### **Obedience**

- **4.** What does it mean to be Obedient?
- **5**. Characteristics of Obedience
- 6. The Rewards of Obedience

3

#### Love

- **7.** What is the Love of God?
- 8. What are we willing to do for Love?
- **9.** What does Loving God have to do with Loving Others?



#### **Service**

- **10.** Why is Service the Result of Loving God?
- 11. How am I Serving The Lord?
- **12.** Sharing God's Word with Others Is a Way to Serve God



Each session has been designed to support you, as the leader, while you share. We encourage you to enrich each session with your own input. It is good that the leader can motivate the group members at each meeting to distribute the Engager Cards (at least one each week). You can also start each session by checking if every group member made the challenge from the previous week found in the section named: "Live It".

Thank you for taking this challenge, we pray that the Lord uses you extensively!

# WHAT DOES THE FEAR OF THE LORD MEAN?

#### Introduction

In the fallen world in which we live, human beings are filled with fear. We live worried about the situation of insecurity in our country. We are affected by the economic crisis and different circumstances that cause anguish and concern. However, the fear of God that the Bible speaks of is a fear that leads us to trust his nature and character, motivating us to live in a state of total awe.

#### I. Reverence and Awe of God's Majesty

<u>Psalm 111:10</u> states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding." Fearing the Lord implies acknowledging his supreme **authority**, **majesty**, and **holiness**. It is a posture of reverence and wonder, realizing our **littleness** compared to his **greatness**. This fear leads us to approach God with **humility** and **respect**.

#### II. Turn Away from Sin and Evil

<u>Proverbs 8:13</u> says, "To fear the Lord is to hate evil;" Fearing the Lord forces us to turn away from **sin** and **evil**, knowing that they oppose the character and **will** of God. This fear motivates us to seek **justice** and **holiness**, wanting to honor and please God in all areas of our **lives**. It is a transforming fear that leads to **repentance** and a renewed **commitment** to live according to God's Word.

#### III. Trust God's Sovereignty and Provision

<u>Psalm 34:9</u> assures: "Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing." Fearing the Lord involves placing our trust in his **sovereignty** and **provision**. We acknowledge that he is the source of all blessings, wisdom, and guidance. This **fear** instills in us the confidence that God will provide for our **needs** and guide us faithfully through all **circumstances**, leading us to surrender and completely depend on him.

#### IV. Seek and Obey God's Instructions

<u>Psalm 25:14</u> reveals: "The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them." Fearing the Lord implies a deep **desire** to seek and obey his **instructions**. It is an invitation to know God **intimately**, to walk in his ways, and to align our lives with his **truth**. This fear cultivates a close relationship with God, where he reveals himself and his **purposes**.

#### V. Receive God's Discipline and Guidance

<u>Proverbs 3:7-8</u> advises: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones." Fearing the Lord allows us to receive his **discipline** and **guidance**. It keeps us humble and open to correction, knowing that God's **correction** is for our ultimate good. This fear leads to **restoration**, growth, and a life aligned with God's will.

#### **Conclusion**

The fear of the Lord encompasses reverence, turning away from evil, trusting in God's sovereignty, seeking and obeying his instructions, and receiving his discipline and guidance. Ponder how you can increase your reverent fear of God. Discuss where in your life God's character regarding his holiness has gone unnoticed and how he expects obedience from us out of genuine fear and awe.

#### Live It

This week, share with another brother or sister in faith (outside of your small group) what caught your attention the most about what the fear of the Lord means.

# WHY SHOULD WE FEAR THE LORD?

#### Introduction

Fearing the Lord can be a difficult notion to grasp. Fear is often associated with negative emotions. However, in the context of our relationship with God, fearing the Lord has a profound meaning. In this Bible study, we will dive into why we should fear the Lord. Through this session, we will discover the transformative power of the fear of the Lord, its impact on our lives, and the blessings that come from embracing this awe.

#### I. Recognize the Supreme Authority of God

<u>Proverbs 9:10</u> states, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Fearing the Lord implies **acknowledging** his supreme authority over all **creation**. Recognize that he is the **Sovereign** God, worthy of our reverence and **obedience**. This fear places us in **awe** of his majesty and prompts us to approach him humbly and respectfully.

#### II. Understand the Holiness of God

<u>Isaiah 6:3</u> records heavenly beings declaring, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Fearing the Lord comes from understanding his **holiness**. God's holiness distinguishes him as totally **perfect** and **pure**. It reveals the stark contrast between his flawless **character** and our fallen nature. This fear compels us to **approach** him with a deep sense of wonder and reverence.

#### III. Acknowledge the Justice and Righteousness of God

<u>Psalm 33:5</u> proclaims, "The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love." Fearing the Lord involves acknowledging his perfect **justice** and **righteousness**. God is the supreme judge who upholds what is **right** and punishes what is **wrong**. This fear reminds us that our actions have **consequences** and encourages us to live in obedience to his **commandments**, knowing that he is a just and righteous God.

#### IV. Develop a Proper Perspective of the Greatness of God

<u>Psalm 95:3</u> urges: "For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods." Fearing the Lord helps us grasp the **magnitude** of his greatness. It allows us to see him as the Creator of the **universe**, the One who has all power and **authority**. This fear puts our finite **existence** and our utter **dependence** on his infinite wisdom and strength into perspective.

#### V. Cultivate a Heart of Wisdom and Humility

<u>Proverbs 15:33</u> teaches: "Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor." Fearing the Lord leads to a heart of **wisdom** and **humility**. It gives us insight and understanding of God's **ways**, guiding our **choices** and **decisions**. This fear keeps us **humble**, recognizing that we are his creation and that true honor comes from aligning our lives with his will.

#### **Conclusion**

The fear of the Lord encompasses the recognition of God's supreme authority, the realization of his holiness, the recognition of his justice and righteousness, the development of a proper perspective of his greatness, and the cultivation of wisdom and humility. By embracing the fear of the Lord, we position ourselves to experience his transforming power in our lives. May the fear of the Lord shape our outlook, guide our actions, and draw us closer to the One who is worthy of all awe.

#### Live It

Begin to think of a person close to you. It could be a family member, co-worker, classmate, or neighbor who does not know the Lord. Remember to use the prayer map that comes in the envelopes.

# THE RESULT OF FEARING THE LORD

#### Introduction

Fearing the Lord is a fundamental aspect of our relationship with God. It involves acknowledging his authority, holiness, and greatness. In this Bible study, we explore the outcome of fearing the Lord. Through this session, we will discover the transformative results of embracing this awe. As we delve into God's Word, we will discover the blessings, wisdom, guidance, protection, and abundant life that comes from fearing the Lord.

#### I. Blessings and Provision

<u>Psalm 128:1-2</u> reveals: "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours." Fearing the Lord invites his **blessings** and **provision** into our lives. When we align ourselves with His **will**, He takes care of our needs and grants us His **favor**.

#### II. Wisdom and Understanding

<u>Proverbs 9:10</u> says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Fearing the Lord leads to **wisdom** and **understanding**. Open our **hearts** and **minds** to the truths found in God's Word. As we fear Him, we gain **discernment**, make wise decisions, and navigate life's **challenges** with His guidance.

#### **III. Divine Guidance and Direction**

<u>Psalm 25:12</u> assures us: "Who, then, are those who fear the Lord? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose." Fearing the Lord invites His divine **guidance** and **direction**. When we fear him, we acknowledge his authority and surrender to his **will**. In return, He guides us along the path He has **made** for us, leading us to walk in His ways.

#### IV. Protection and Deliverance

<u>Psalm 34:7</u> proclaims, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them." Fearing the Lord brings His **protection** and **deliverance**. As we revere him and trust in his **sovereignty**, he watches over us and protects us from evil. In times of **trouble** or **danger**, He is our refuge, protecting us from the attacks of the enemy.

#### V. Abundant Life and Fulfillment

<u>Psalm 145:19</u> states: "He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them." Fearing the Lord leads to an **abundant** and **fulfilling** life. When we fear him, our hearts' desires align with his **purposes**, and he delights in fulfilling them. In His **presence**, we find true satisfaction, contentment, and joy that **surpass** earthly pleasures.

#### **Conclusion**

Fearing the Lord results in blessings, wisdom, divine guidance, protection, and abundant life. It is a transformative posture that aligns us with God's will and opens the floodgates of his goodness in our lives. As we cultivate the fear of the Lord, may we experience the transformative results that come from wholeheartedly revering and honoring the One who is worthy of all praise and awe.

#### Live It

This week, show kindness to the person you are praying for.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE OBEDIENT?

#### Introduction

Obedience is a fundamental aspect of our relationship with God. It involves willingly submitting to his will and aligning our actions with his commandments. In this Bible study, we will look at the meaning of obedience. Through this session, we will discover the significance, benefits, and challenges of living a life characterized by obedience. Let's delve into the Word to understand what it means to be obedient and how it shapes our walk with him.

#### I. Surrender to God's Authority

Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." Obedience begins with surrendering to God's **authority**. It means acknowledging that he is the ultimate authority over our **lives**, surrendering our will to his, and offering ourselves as a living sacrifice for his **purposes**.

#### II. Aligning with God's Word

<u>James 1:22</u> exhorts: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Obedience involves aligning our **lives** with the Word of God. It is not enough to simply hear or read his **commandments**; we must put them into practice. Obedience flows from a heart that values and reveres the Word of God, seeking to **live** the truth in all aspects of life.

#### III. Trusting in the Wisdom of God

<u>Proverbs 3:5-6</u> encourages: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Obedience requires trusting God's **wisdom** over our own. It means recognizing our **limitations** and leaning on his understanding. It involves seeking his guidance and following it, even when it doesn't align with our human **reasoning**.

#### IV. Walking in Love and Service

John 14:15 records Jesus' words: "If you love me, keep my commands." Obedience is a natural expression of our **love** for God. It manifests itself in our willingness to love and serve others, as Jesus commanded us to love our **neighbor** as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). Obedience springs from a heart transformed by the love of God, leading us to reflect his **character** in our actions towards others.

#### V. Persevere in Faith

<u>Hebrews 11:8</u> speaks of Abraham's obedience, saying, "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Obedience often requires taking a step of **faith** and trusting in God's promises, even when the path is uncertain. It involves persevering in **obedience** and remaining steadfast in our commitment to follow God, no matter what challenges we may **face**.

#### **Conclusion**

To be obedient is to surrender to God's authority, align with his Word, trust his wisdom, walk in love and service, and persevere in faith. It is a daily choice to submit our will to his and live according to his commandments. As we cultivate a lifestyle of obedience, we grow closer to God, experience his blessings, and become instruments of his transforming work in the world. Let us strive to be obedient because it is a sign of our love and devotion to our Heavenly Father.

#### Live It

This week be sure to talk to God about the person you are praying for and share an Engager with that person. Keep using the prayer map that comes in the envelopes.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF OBEDIENCE

#### Introduction

Obedience is a vital aspect of our relationship with God. It involves willingly submitting to his will and aligning our lives with his commandments. In this session, we will study the characteristics of obedience exemplified by various individuals in the Scriptures. Through Biblical references, we will discover the key attributes that mark a life of obedience, allowing us to grow in our walk with God and experience the blessings that come from living in obedience to him.

#### I. Willingness to Listen and Follow

A key characteristic of obedience is the willingness to **listen** to God's voice and follow his instructions. In the story of Noah, God **commanded** him to build an ark (<u>Genesis 6:13-22</u>). Despite the **enormity** and unusual nature of the task, Noah faithfully obeyed God. Obedience requires being attentive to God's **leading** and being willing to act on his commands.

#### II. Fast Answer

Readiness to obey God's **directives** is another characteristic of obedience. At the call of the disciples, Jesus simply said, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:19), and immediately they left everything to follow him. The disciples' obedience demonstrates their **readiness** to respond immediately to Jesus' call.

#### **III. Unconditional Devotion**

Obedience implies unconditional **devotion** to the will of God. When Abraham was called to sacrifice his son, Isaac, he displayed **unwavering** faith and obedience (<u>Genesis 22:1-18</u>). His willingness to give up his most precious possessions revealed his complete **trust** in God. Genuine obedience requires undivided loyalty to God's purposes.

#### IV. Trusting God's Sovereignty

One characteristic of obedience is trusting in God's **sovereignty** and wisdom. When Joseph was sold into slavery and later faced adversity in Egypt, he remained **obedient** and faithful, trusting that God had a greater plan (<u>Genesis 39:2-6</u>). Obedience involves **trusting** that God's ways are higher than ours.

#### **V. Perseverance in Trials**

Obedience often involves perseverance in the face of **trials** and challenges. Job exemplifies this characteristic when he faces immense **suffering** and loss. Despite the trials, he maintained his faith and obedience to God (Job 1:20-22). Obedience requires **constancy**, even amid difficulties.

#### **Conclusion**

Characteristics of obedience include a willingness to listen and follow, prompt response to God's call, wholehearted devotion, trust in God's sovereignty, perseverance in trials, repentance and humility, and giving good fruits. As we cultivate these attributes, we grow closer to God and experience the transformative power of obeying him. May we strive to embody these characteristics, knowing that through obedience, we honor and glorify our Heavenly Father.

#### Live It

Pass out at least five Engagers in your neighborhood. Don't forget to keep talking to Jesus about the person you are praying for.

# THE REWARDS OF OBEDIENCE

#### Introduction

As we have seen, obedience is a vital aspect of our relationship with God, when we submit to his will and align our lives with his commands. In this session, we will explore the rewards of obedience. Through biblical references, we will discover the blessings, promises and benefits that come from living a life characterized by obedience to God. As we delve into God's Word, we will discover the richness of rewards for those who faithfully obey him.

#### I. Blessings and Prosperity

<u>Deuteronomy 28:2</u> states, "All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God." Obedience invites **blessings** and prosperity into our lives. When we align ourselves with God's **will**, he pours out his favor, leading us to an abundant and fruitful life.

#### II. Divine Guidance and Direction

<u>Proverbs 3:6</u> advises: "in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Obedience leads to divine **guidance** and direction. As we submit to God's authority and seek his **will**, he provides clear direction and wisdom for navigating life's choices and challenges.

#### III. Protection and Deliverance

<u>Psalm 91:14-16</u> promises: "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him;" Obedience results in God's **protection** and deliverance. When we obey him and trust in his sovereignty, he **protects** us from evil and rescues us from adversity.

#### IV. Stay in the Love of God

<u>John 15:10</u> records Jesus' words: "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love." Obedience leads to **remaining** in the love of God. When we obey him out of love and reverence, we experience a deep and intimate **relationship** with him, knowing the depth of his love for us.

#### V. Eternal Rewards

<u>Revelation 22:14</u> proclaims: "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city." Obedience carries the promise of eternal **rewards**. Those who faithfully follow Christ and persevere in obedience will **inherit** from him the blessings of eternal life and access to God's presence.

#### VI. Favor and Honor

<u>1 Samuel 2:30</u> states, "Those who honor me I will honor." Obedience invites the **favor** and honor of God. When we honor him through obedience, he lifts us up and blesses us with his **presence** and favor.

#### VII. Fulfillment of God's promises

<u>Hebrews 6:12</u> assures, "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised." Obedience leads to the **fulfillment** of God's promises in our lives. When we remain firm in obedience and faith, we **inherit** from him the abundant promises that God has for his children.

#### **Conclusion**

The rewards of obedience include blessings, prosperity, divine guidance, protection, abiding in God's love, eternal rewards, favor, honor, and fulfillment of God's promises. As we walk in obedience, we position ourselves to experience the richness of God's rewards and blessings. May we embrace a life marked by obedience to God's commandments, knowing that through our obedience, we honor and glorify our Heavenly Father.

#### Live It

Pass out at least five Engagers at your place of work.

## WHAT IS THE LOVE OF GOD?

#### Introduction

One of the most profound and captivating aspects of God's character is his love. It surpasses human understanding and embraces us with depth and magnitude without measure. In this Bible study, we will explore the essence of God's love, its characteristics, and its transforming power in our lives. Through this session, we will gain a clearer understanding of God's love and how it shapes our relationship with him and with others.

#### I. God's Love: Unconditional and Sacrificial

1 John 4:8 says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." God's love is not simply an **attribute**. It is his very **essence**. By nature, God's love is **unconditional** and **sacrificial**. In Romans 5:8, we read, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God's love extends to all **humanity**, regardless of our flaws or shortcomings.

#### II. The Love of God: Eternal and Inexhaustible

In <u>Jeremiah 31:3</u>, the Lord declares: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness." God's love is immutable and eternal. It does not depend on our **performance** or **circumstances**. <u>Psalm 136:26</u> affirms this, "Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever." God's love is **unwavering**, constant, and stands the test of time.

#### III. God's Love: Personal and Intimate

God's love is not a **distant** and **impersonal** force. It is profoundly personal and intimate. In (<u>Isaiah 43:1</u>), the Lord reassures his people, saying, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." God's love is **individualized**, addresses us by name, and invites us into a personal relationship with him. The parable of the lost sheep in <u>Luke 15:4-7</u> beautifully portrays God's love seeking the **lost**.

#### IV. God's Love: Transforming

God's love has the power to **transform** lives. Romans 12:2 encourages us: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." We are **renewed** and **transformed** to live according to His **will** when we experience God's love. 1 John 4:16 says: "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."

#### V. The Love of God: A Call to Love Others

God's love is not meant to be **hoarded** for us. It forces us to **love** others in the same way. In <u>John 13:34-35</u>, Jesus instructs his disciples, saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." God's love is meant to flow through us, **impacting** and **transforming** the world around us.

#### **Conclusion**

God's love is unconditional, sacrificial, eternal, personal, transforming, and calls us to love others. As we meditate on Scripture and embrace God's love in our lives, may we be filled with gratitude and a deep desire to share his love with a hurting world. Let us continually seek to grow in the understanding and experience of the boundless love of our Heavenly Father.

#### Live It

This week invite the person you are praying for to one of your church meetings.

# WHAT ARE WE WILLING TO DO FOR LOVE?

#### Introduction

Love is a powerful force that compels us to take action, make sacrifices, and go beyond our comfort zones. In this Bible study, we will explore what it means to truly show love and how far we are willing to go for it. Through this session, we will gain insight into actions and sacrifices motivated by love and how they reflect our relationship with God and with others.

#### I. Love: Selfless

John 15:13 says: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." We can find the maximum **expression** of love in the sacrificial act of giving one's life for **others**. This selflessness is beautifully exemplified by **Jesus Christ**, who voluntarily gave his life on the cross for the redemption of **humanity**. Love motivates us to prioritize the welfare and **needs** of others above our own.

#### II. Love: Serve and Satisfy Needs

<u>Galatians 5:13b</u> urges, "serve one another humbly in love." Love calls us to a life of **service**, actively seeking ways to meet the needs of **others**. Jesus demonstrated this in his ministry, He washed his disciples' feet as an act of **humility** and **love** (<u>John 13:1-17</u>). Love moves us to serve and encourage others, whether through acts of **kindness**, helping or providing support in times of **difficulty**.

#### III. Love: Forgive and Reconcile

Forgiveness is a powerful **demonstration** of love. <u>Colossians 3:13</u> exhorts: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Love allows us to extend grace and forgive those who have wronged us, just as **God** forgives us. Open the door to **reconciliation** and **restoration**, fostering harmonious relationships based on love and forgiveness.

#### IV. Love: Expand Hospitality

<u>Romans 12:13</u> encourages us to "share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Love prompts us to open our **hearts** and **homes**, welcoming others with warmth and generosity. By providing **hospitality**, we create an environment of love and acceptance where relationships can flourish. Also, people can experience God's love through our **actions**.

#### V. Love: Proclaiming the Gospel

<u>Matthew 28:19-20</u> records Jesus' command to his disciples: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." Love compels us to share the good news of **salvation** with others, to proclaim the transforming power of God's **love**. Acts of **evangelism** and sharing our faith are expressions of love, as we want others to experience God's everlasting love and **grace**.

#### **Conclusion**

Love calls us to action, urging us to make sacrifices, serve, forgive, extend hospitality, and proclaim the Gospel. As followers of Christ, we are called to imitate his example of sacrificial love. Let us reflect on the Scriptures and examine our hearts, asking ourselves what we are willing to do for love. May we be empowered by the Holy Spirit to love others as Christ loved us. In doing so, bring glory to God and demonstrate his love to the world.

#### Live It

Over the next week, share at least five Engagers with people in your neighborhood again.

# WHAT DOES LOVING GOD HAVE TO DO WITH LOVING OTHERS?

#### Introduction

God's love is the foundation and inspiration for our ability to love others. In this Bible study, we will learn the deep connection between God's love and our call to love one another. Through this session, we will understand how experiencing God's love transforms our hearts, enables us to love others, and reflects our relationship with him.

#### I. The Love of God as a Source of Love

<u>1 John 4:7</u> says, "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God." God is the source of **love**. His love fills and overflows within us, **equipping** us to love others. As we experience the **depth** and **richness** of God's love, we become vessels through which his love can flow to those around us.

#### II. God's Love as a Model of Love

<u>Ephesians 5:1-2</u> encourages us: "Therefore, imitate God in everything you do because you are his beloved children. Live a life full of love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, as a pleasing aroma to God." God's love, demonstrated through the **sacrificial** act of sending his Son Jesus, serves as a model for how we should love **others**. We are called to love **selflessly** and **sacrificially**, following the example of Christ's love.

#### III. God's Love as Motivation to Love

<u>1 John 4:19</u> states, "We love one another, because he first loved us." God's love **initiates** and **fuels** our love for others. When we grasp the **depth** of God's love for us, it becomes a powerful **motivation** to extend that love to others. Acknowledging the **immense** love we have received from God forces us to share that love with those **around** us.

#### IV. God's Love as the Basis for Unity

<u>Colossians 3:14</u> teaches, "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which unites us all in perfect harmony." God's love is the unifying **force** that unites believers in perfect **harmony**. Transcend **differences** and create a **bond** that is beyond understanding. When we love others with the love of God, we help **foster** unity within the body of Christ and beyond.

#### V. God's Love as a Witness to the World

Jesus teaches in <u>John 13:35</u>, "The love that you have for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." Our love for others is a powerful **testimony** to the world of our relationship with God. When we **love** others with God's love, we display his **character** and invite others to experience the **transforming** power of his love.

#### **Conclusion**

God's love is the foundation of our ability to love others. As we experience and understand the profoundness of God's love for us, it transforms our hearts and enables us to extend that love to those around us. Let us immerse ourselves in God's love through prayer, Scripture, and fellowship with him, We can be vessels of his love, reflecting his character and drawing others to his redeeming, unconditional love.

#### Live It

Over the next week, again share at least five Engagers with people at your place of work or school.

# WHY IS SERVICE THE RESULT OF LOVING GOD?

#### Introduction

Loving God is not simply an emotional or intellectual response; it is a transformative encounter that leads to a lifetime of service. In this Bible study, we will explore the connection between loving God and serving others. Through this session, we will discover why service flows naturally from a genuine love for God and how it is an essential expression of our relationship with him.

#### I. Loving God and Embracing His Commandments

In <u>John 14:15</u>, Jesus says, "If you love me, keep my commands." Loving God is closely **linked** to obeying his **commandments**. As we grow in our love for him, we willingly **submit** to his will and seek to live according to his **teachings**. This includes serving others, as Jesus **commanded** us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).

#### II. Gratitude and Response to God's Love

1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us." When we understand the **depth** of God's love and the sacrificial gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, our hearts overflow with **gratitude**. This gratitude naturally prompts us to respond with **love** and **service** to others. It is an expression of our love for God.

#### III. Reflecting God's Character of Love and Service

God's nature is characterized by love and service. In <u>Mark 10:45</u>, Jesus declares, "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." When we love God, we **align** ourselves with his character and desire to imitate his **selfless** love and service. Serving others becomes a **reflection** of God's love that flows through us.

#### IV. Unity and Construction of the Kingdom of God

<u>Ephesians 4:11-12</u> teaches: "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Loving God **compels** us to actively participate in building his kingdom by serving and **ministering** others. Our service contributes to **unity** within the body of Christ and the advancement of God's purposes on Earth.

#### V. Following Jesus' Example of Service

In <u>John 13:14-15</u>, Jesus says, "Now that *I*, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. *I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*" As **followers** of Christ, our love for God is demonstrated by following Jesus' example of humble **service**. We are called to emulate his servant's heart and his **sacrificial** love.

#### **Conclusion**

Service is not a burden or an obligation but a natural outpouring of love for God. When we truly love God, our hearts are transformed. Loving God leads us to love and serve others with the same selflessness and compassion God has shown us. Let's embrace the opportunity to serve as a joyful response to God's love, bringing glory to his name and impacting the world around us.

#### Live It

Identify someone (or a group of people) that are sick or in need whom you can help. Begin to pray for them.

## HOW AM I SERVING THE LORD?

#### Introduction

As believers, our lives are not our own; we are called to serve the Lord with all our hearts. In this Bible study, we will review the ways we can serve the Lord. Through this session, we will discover the importance of serving with our gifts, serving others with love, and serving as ambassadors for Christ. May this study inspire and encourage us to accept our unique role in serving the Lord.

#### I. Serve with Spiritual Gifts

<u>1 Peter 4:10,11</u> reminds us "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." We all have unique **gifts** from the Holy Spirit to serve **God** and **others**. Discovering and using our spiritual gifts allows us to serve in a way that aligns with our **strengths** and **passions**. We make a significant impact in the body of Christ.

#### **II. Serve Others with Love**

<u>Galatians 5:13</u> exhorts us: "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." Our service to others must be **motivated** by love. It should reflect the sacrificial love of Christ. Through acts of **kindness**, encouragement, or meeting practical needs, our service becomes a tangible **expression** of God's love and care.

#### III. Serve with Humility and Obedience

<u>Colossians 3:23-24</u> reminds us: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." Our service to the Lord must be marked by **humility** and obedience, recognizing ultimately, we serve God. When approaching our **tasks** with diligence and a servant's heart, we honor and glorify the Lord.

#### IV. Serve as Ambassadors for Christ

<u>2 Corinthians 5:20</u> states, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." As believers, we are called to represent Christ in the **world**. Our service extends beyond acts of **kindness**; it involves sharing the good news of salvation and pointing others to Christ. We are its **ambassadors**, and we are charged with the mission of reconciling people to God through our words and actions.

#### V. Serve with Fidelity and Perseverance

<u>Hebrews 6:10</u> encourages us: "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Our service to the Lord is not in **vain**. God sees and values our faithfulness in **serving** him and others. Even in difficult times, we are called to **persevere**, knowing that our work in the Lord is never in vain.

#### **Conclusion**

Serving the Lord is a privilege and a calling for every believer. As we discover and use our spiritual gifts, serve others lovingly, and faithfully represent Christ, our lives will become a testament to His transforming power. Let us approach our service with humility, obedience and perseverance, knowing that through our service we glorify God and participate in his redemptive work. May we continually seek opportunities to wholeheartedly serve the Lord, honoring Him and advancing his kingdom.

#### Live It

Plan a service project to help the people from last week. Don't forget to share Engagers in that activity.

# SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH OTHERS IS A WAY TO SERVE GOD

#### Introduction

As believers, we are called to serve God in various ways. One powerful and transformative way we can serve him is by sharing his Word with others. In this final session, we'll look at why sharing God's Word is an important way to serve him. Through this Bible Study, we will discover the impact of God's Word, the mandate to share it, and the blessings that come from serving him in this way.

#### I. The Power and Impact of God's Word

<u>Hebrews 4:12</u> proclaims: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." The Word of God has the power to **transform** lives, **convict** hearts, and bring **salvation**. Sharing God's Word allows others to find the **truth** and experience the transforming power of his Word.

#### II. The Commandment to Share the Gospel

In <u>Matthew 28:19-20a</u>, Jesus commissions his disciples, saying, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Sharing the Word of God is not a **suggestion** but a command. We are called to make **disciples** by sharing the gospel and teaching others to follow Christ.

#### III. Compassion for the Lost

<u>Matthew 9:36</u> describes Jesus' heart for the lost, saying, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." As followers of Christ, we are called to **emulate** his compassion for the lost. Sharing God's Word is an expression of that **compassion**, as we desire to see others find hope, salvation, and eternal life in Christ.

#### IV. Bearing Fruit and Glorifying God

In <u>John 15:8</u>, Jesus says, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." Sharing the Word of God is a way to bear **fruit** in our lives and the lives of others. As we **share** his Word, lives are **transformed**, hearts turn to God, and God's kingdom **advances**. Through this **service**, we give glory to God and demonstrate our identity as disciples of Christ.

#### V. The Blessings of Faithful Service

<u>Proverbs 11:25</u> says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Sharing the Word of God is a means of **blessing** and **enrichment**. As we faithfully serve him by sharing his Word, we are spiritually **nourished** and grow deeper in our understanding and relationship with God. Furthermore, we are **privileged** to witness the transformation and growth of those who respond to the gospel.

#### **Conclusion**

Sharing God's Word with others is a powerful and meaningful way to serve him. It brings transformation, fulfills the mandate to make disciples, shows compassion, bears fruit, and brings glory to God. By faithfully participating in sharing his Word, we not only bless others but we also experience personal enrichment and growth in our own relationship with God. May we accept this call and serve him wholeheartedly by sharing his Word with a world that needs His grace and truth.

#### Live It

This week, thank God for the life of your leader and do an act of gratitude to him (her).



**Every Home for Christ**