



Exploring the Character of God
Lesson 2: God Is Loving
1 John 4:7-12 HCSB

Discussion Starter:

- What makes you love someone?
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Scripture Text: 1 John 4:7-12 HCSB

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is perfected in us.

Key Terms:

- **Propitiation:** Refers to a sin offering designed to appease God’s wrath against the sinner.
- **Remains:** God lives within believers. His presence is sensed as believers love one another. He remains, abides and dwells in the hearts of those who love Him.
- **Perfected:** The biblical meaning refers to something being completed, accomplished, or finished. As we walk with God, we reach His goal of loving others.

Scriptures that Share God’s Love for Us!

- Romans 8:35-39
- Isaiah 53
- John 10:9-11
- John 3:16
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Discussion Questions

1. How does the statement “God is Love” differ from saying “God Loves”?

2. When have you sensed God’s love and power at work in your life?

3. How will being loved by God shape the way you live?

Let’s Take Action:

Living Out God’s Love

- **Embrace God’s love** – Pray specifically for God to help you understand, believe and receive His love for you today.
- **Reflect God’s love** – Make an effort to express love to someone in a way that mirrors God’s love for you. (*Note: this experience will be most powerful if you’re able to express love to someone who doesn’t deserve it.*)
- **Seek reconciliation** – Identify a relationship that’s been strained or broken in recent years (days, weeks etc.). Let God’s empowering love be the catalyst for you to request or offer forgiveness in that relationship as a step toward reconciliation.