Loving Like Jesus

A One Week Bible Study Guide

Primary Passage(s):

- Matthew 22:35–40
- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Leviticus 19:18
- Luke 10:25–37
- John 13:4–17, 34–35
- Colossians 3:11
- Galatians 6:1–5
- Ephesians 4:31–32

Introduction

Jesus commanded His followers to love God and love their neighbors. It sounds simple enough, but putting that command into practice can be difficult. People have different personalities, experiences, struggles, and wounds that affect how they relate to one another. Sometimes our own attitudes get in the way, too.

As we continue becoming more like Jesus, that transformation should become visible in how we treat others. Throughout this five-day study, we'll explore what Jesus taught about love, how He demonstrated it, what can prevent us from loving others, and how we can begin putting Christlike love into practice in our everyday lives.

Day 1: The Greatest Commandments

Theme: Love God, Love Others

Scripture: Matthew 22:35–40; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18

Key thought for this day:

When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, He gave two: love God with your whole being and love your neighbor as yourself. These commandments are closely connected and form the foundation for how we relate to God and other people.

Loving God involves more than religious activities or outward appearances. It means giving Him our devotion, trust, and obedience. Loving our neighbor means extending genuine concern for others, just as we naturally care about our own needs and well-being

Questions:

1. Read Matthew 22:35–40. Why do you think Jesus connected loving God with loving other people?
2. Deuteronomy 6:5 describes loving God with all your heart, soul, and strength. What might that look like in your everyday decisions and relationships?
3. Leviticus 19:18 connects loving your neighbor with refusing to seek revenge or hold grudges. Why might these attitudes interfere with genuine love?
4. When you think about loving your neighbor, do you tend to focus more on how you feel about someone or how you treat them? Why?

Reflection:

Loving God and loving others are not separate parts of following Jesus. Our devotion to God should influence the way we treat the people around us. Love is more than a feeling. It is expressed through our choices, attitudes, and actions.

Consider whether your relationships reflect the love you say you have for God.

Daily Prayer:

Ask God to help you love Him with your whole heart and recognize opportunities to show genuine concern for others. Pray that your attitudes and actions would increasingly reflect His love.

Day 2: Love Put Into Action

Theme: Love Through Humble Service

Scripture: Luke 10:25–37; John 13:4–17, 34–35

Key thought for this day:

Jesus didn't simply teach His followers to love others. He showed them what love looks like.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the person who demonstrated love was the one who stopped to help someone in need. In John 13, Jesus washed His disciples' feet, performing an act of humble service even though He knew they were imperfect and would fail Him.

Jesus calls His followers to love others as He has loved them. That kind of love is not based on popularity, personality, or whether someone is easy to get along with. It is demonstrated through humility, compassion, and a willingness to serve.

Questions:

1. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, what made the Samaritan different from the other people who encountered the injured man?\
2. Read John 13:4–17. What does Jesus' willingness to wash His disciples' feet teach you about humility and service?
3. Jesus knew His disciples would disappoint Him, yet He still served them. How does that challenge the way you respond to people who frustrate or disappoint you?
4. Is there someone you find difficult to love because of their personality, behavior, or differences? What might it look like to show that person genuine compassion?

Reflection:

Jesus never said that everyone we encounter would be easy to love. He also never said that loving others required us to enjoy everyone's company or become naturally outgoing people.

Instead, He gave us an example of humble service. Christlike love is not measured by how many friends we have or how comfortable we feel around others. It becomes visible through the compassion and care we demonstrate.

Think about how your actions, rather than simply your feelings, can communicate love.

Daily Prayer:

Ask Jesus to help you recognize opportunities to serve others with humility. Pray for a heart that responds with compassion, even when loving someone requires patience or sacrifice.

Day 3: Understanding Hidden Struggles

Theme: Looking Beyond the Surface

Scripture: Galatians 6:1–2; John 13:34–35

Key thought for this day:

Every person we encounter has a story we may not know.

Some people carry emotional wounds from rejection, betrayal, or difficult relationships. Others struggle with anxiety, depression, exhaustion, or responsibilities that seem overwhelming. These experiences can affect how people interact with others and how willing they are to receive love.

It can be easy to label someone as unfriendly, distant, or difficult without understanding what they might be facing.

Paul reminds believers to restore others with gentleness and to bear one another's burdens. Loving like Jesus requires us to look beyond appearances and respond with compassion rather than quick judgment.

Questions:

1. Have you ever misunderstood someone's behavior, only to discover later that they were dealing with something difficult? How did that change your perspective?
2. What assumptions do you sometimes make about people who seem distant, unfriendly, or unwilling to participate?
3. Galatians 6:2 tells us to bear one another's burdens. What does that teach us about our responsibility toward people who are struggling?

4. Are there experiences or wounds in your own life that make it difficult to trust others or receive their love? How might those experiences be influencing your relationships today?

Reflection:

Not every difficulty in a relationship is the result of sin or a lack of spiritual maturity. Sometimes people are carrying burdens we cannot see.

Loving like Jesus means recognizing that people are more than their outward behavior. It also means remembering that our own value is not determined by what others have said about us or how we feel about ourselves. Every person has dignity and worth because they were created in God's image.

Consider how your relationships might change if you approached others with more compassion and fewer assumptions.

Daily Prayer:

Ask God to help you see others with compassion rather than judgment. Pray for greater understanding of the struggles people may be carrying, including those that are not visible. If you are carrying wounds of your own, ask Him to help you recognize your worth and become more willing to receive genuine love and care.

Day 4: Wounds and Walls

Theme: Removing Barriers to Love

Scripture: Ephesians 4:31–32; Galatians 6:1

Key thought for this day:

Some obstacles to loving others come from wounds we carry. Others come from walls we build.

When someone hurts or betrays us, it can be tempting to withdraw, stop trusting people, or hold on to bitterness. Sometimes those reactions are attempts to protect ourselves from being hurt again.

But other barriers come from our own pride, selfishness, prejudice, or unwillingness to forgive.

Paul instructs believers to put away bitterness, anger, and malice and replace those attitudes with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.

Forgiveness does not mean pretending that nothing happened or returning to an unsafe situation. Healthy boundaries can be necessary. But we must be careful that protecting ourselves from one person's harmful behavior does not become an excuse to withhold love from everyone else.

Questions:

1. Read Ephesians 4:31–32. Which attitudes does Paul tell believers to put away, and what does he instruct them to practice instead?
2. Have you ever allowed a painful experience with one person to influence how you treat or trust others? What effect has that had on your relationships?
3. How can you recognize the difference between maintaining healthy boundaries and holding on to bitterness or resentment?
4. Is there an attitude, grudge, or prejudice in your life that may be preventing you from loving someone the way Jesus commands?

Reflection:

Sometimes the wounds we carry become the walls we build.

While we cannot always control what others have done to us, we are responsible for how we respond. Scripture calls us to examine our attitudes and let go of bitterness, malice, and unforgiveness.

This does not mean ignoring harmful behavior or removing necessary boundaries. It means refusing to allow past hurts or sinful attitudes to determine how we treat everyone around us.

Consider whether there is a wall in your life that needs to be addressed.

Daily Prayer:

Ask God to reveal any bitterness, resentment, pride, or prejudice that may be affecting your relationships. Pray for the willingness to forgive, the wisdom to maintain healthy boundaries, and the strength to respond to others with kindness and compassion.

Day 5: Love in Everyday Life

Theme: Taking One Practical Step

Scripture: Galatians 6:2–5; John 13:34–35; Ephesians 4:32

Key thought for this day:

Loving like Jesus does not mean having unlimited time, energy, or resources. It does not mean taking responsibility for every problem in someone else's life.

Paul tells believers to bear one another's burdens, but he also reminds us that each person has responsibilities of their own.

Sometimes loving others means offering practical help. Sometimes it means listening, praying, encouraging someone to seek appropriate help, or simply being present with someone who is hurting.

And sometimes, loving one another means being willing to receive help rather than trying to carry every burden alone.

Jesus said that our love for one another would show the world that we are His disciples. As we continue growing to become more like Him, that love should become increasingly visible in our everyday lives.

Questions:

1. Read Galatians 6:2–5. How can you help someone carry a burden without taking responsibility for everything in their life?
2. What are some practical ways you can show compassion to someone when your own time, energy, or resources are limited?
3. Is there a burden you've been trying to carry alone that you might need to let someone help you with?
4. What is one specific action you can take this week to demonstrate Christlike love toward another person?

Reflection:

Loving like Jesus is not about becoming perfect or pretending that relationships are always easy.

It is about allowing Jesus to transform the way we respond to others.

You don't have to become someone with a different personality. You don't have to solve everyone's problems. And you don't have to take ten steps at once.

Start with one.

Encourage someone who is struggling. Listen to someone who needs to be heard. Offer help when you recognize a genuine need. Take a step toward forgiveness. Or allow someone else to help carry a burden you've been facing alone.

As we continue following Jesus, His love should become more visible in our lives.

Daily Prayer:

Ask Jesus to help you put what you've learned into practice. Pray for the wisdom to recognize one meaningful opportunity to demonstrate His love this week and the willingness to respond with humility, compassion, and care.

A Final Thought

Jesus said:

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:35

Following Jesus is a process of ongoing transformation. We're still learning, still growing, and sometimes still struggling.

But as we become more like Him, the way we treat others should begin to reflect His love.

Loving like Jesus isn't about pretending people aren't complicated. It's about allowing Jesus to transform the way we respond to them.