



His Love, Our Love Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles and copies of the Bible study for attendees.]

Think of a time when there was love all around you. If you have been to a LWML national or district convention, you would have experienced love all around. People smiled and were helpful, concerned, caring, and happy. They were encouraged to share the Gospel and God's love. They were sharing stories of love while planning acts of love. On returning home the women shared stories of kindness, love, and caring that they had experienced, and spiritual insights that they had gained. The women excitedly told how their love for God was going to be shared through the funding of missions with Mite Boxes.

This is a mountain-top experience. Perhaps you have had a different mountain-top experience of being surrounded by love that you would like to share.

After these mountain-top experiences, we come back to the valley, the everyday life where, as the apostle John says, *the whole world is under the control of the evil one* (1 John 5:19b NIV). It is more difficult to share God's love with those who make fun of Christians; those who are mean-spirited towards us; and those whose lives revolve around themselves. In everyday life there are distractions and discouragements along with demands on our time and resources. We are not always surrounded by others who encourage us to share God's love.

How do we surround people in the "valley" with love?

Source of Love

What are some Bible verses that come to mind when you think of the **source of love**?

Please read 1 John 4:7-12 and 1 John 3:16.
Recite John 3:16.

What is love?

From where does love come?

How did God show His love?

Sharing Love

Knowing the source of love, with whom should we **share love**?

Read 1 John 3:11; Matthew 5:43-48; Matthew 22:37-39; and Luke 6:32-35.

Whom should we love?

Tell of times when you have shown love to your neighbors.

Think of someone who is difficult for you to love. Would you like to be able to show love toward them?

Obstacles

Now we know the source of love. We know with whom we need to share the love. What **obstacles** prevent us from sharing God's love?

Read 1 John 2:15-17. We live in the world, but what does the world value?

Read 2 Peter 2:1-3, 10b-12. In what ways might people lead you astray?

Read 1 Peter 5:8. How does the devil try to lead you astray?

Read 1 Peter 4:3-4. What are some possible reactions from others?

Read Luke 6:37-38. How does looking through our eyes differ from looking through our Father's eyes? How does this hinder putting our love in action?

Is it easy to share what we have with others?

Who wants to love their enemy?

How does fear stop us from sharing God's love?

God's Help

Despite obstacles, God, however, does not leave us without **help**. We know that we are not perfect and cannot on our own overcome our imperfections.

Read 1 John 4:13-16. What help do we find in this passage to love others?

Read 1 John 4:17-21 and 2 Timothy 1:7-8. Why do we have confidence? Think of what we can do without fear.

Read 1 John 5:1-5. How do we know that we have love? What encouragement do we find in this passage?

Read the following passages and discuss what encouragement is found in each passage: 1 John 3:1, 21-22; John 14:25-27; 1 Peter 3:13-16; 1 Peter 4:19; and Hebrews 3:13.

Share other passages that give you encouragement.

Summary

In summary:

What reason do we have to do loving deeds? Read Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 4:19; John 3:16; and John 13:34.

Why can we do these loving deeds? Read 1 John 4:19

How do we surround others with this wonderful gift of love?

Read the following passages to learn about sharing God's love:
Matthew 5:44; Matthew 18:5; Matthew 25:34-46; and 1 John 3:17-18.

Think of how you can put one of these Bible passages into practice this week.

We do live in the "valley" of everyday life. But we also have the "mountain-top experience" in our daily lives as we pray, worship, study His word, partake of the Lord's Supper, and fellowship with others. Thanks be to God for His love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we live in this world, we give You thanks for Your gifts to us. We know that we are weak. Send Your Holy Spirit to us that we can share Your love with others. Amen.

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