



Maranatha Weekly Study Guide - 10/28/20

Use some, all, or none of the ideas - adapt - come up with your ideas!

If anyone in your family needs a Bible, please contact the office, kingsfordag@yahoo.com or 774-7631 ext. 7.

Background information.... from Pastor Dave

The English language only has one word for love. The New Testament writers had 8 words for different types of love:

- *Eros* – sensual love.
- *Philia* – affectionate love or friendship.
- *Storge* – familial love.
- *Ludus* – playful love or flirtation.
- *Mania* – obsessive love.
- *Pragma* – enduring love.
- *Philautia* – self-love.
- *Agape* – Universal or selfless love.

Of those, they used four – *eros*, *philia*, *storge*, and *agape*. Each word is descriptive of a type of love found in human relationships. The type of love most associated with covenant relationships is *agape* love.

READ: Luke 15:11-32 or "The Prodigal Son" starting on page 397 of *The Beginner's Bible*

- What is this story about? Money? Wild living? Stubbornness? Forgiveness? Anger?
- Who wants his share of the family inheritance?
 - Are you aware that both boys receive their inheritance at the same time?
 - Who received more?
- What does the younger brother do with his money? What type of love was he displaying?
- When there was plenty of money, the younger brother had lots of friends, but they deserted him when the money ran out. What type of love describes their actions?
- What did he end up doing to earn food and shelter?
- What did he think about while feeding the swine?
- When he returns, how does his father greet him? With angry words? With "I told you so?" With love?
- Do you think the older brother was justified for being upset that his brother got a party?
- What was the father's message to the younger son? What was the father's message to the older son?
- Was this a case of unconditional love (*agape* love)? Discuss...

MEMORIZE: Deuteronomy 7:9, "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,"

-OR SHORTEN -

Jeremiah 31:3, "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Idea #1 Memorize to Music

Use the song links to learn this verse to music.

Deut. 7:9

https://youtu.be/0Yk-DTTfEQo?list=PL0_OnlwnWxRbPhDcJRv26oihLCEtnpw38

Jeremiah 31:3 <https://youtu.be/rxmjSLp5hE4>

Idea #2: Volleyball

Have your family sit in a circle (or around the dinner table) Review the verse several times, then have one person say the first word, second person say the next word and so on. Could also use a bean bag to toss back and forth saying one word each time

HAVE FUN:

What you need: paper towel, ball point pen, red marker, cup with a small amount of water
First draw a heart towards the bottom of the paper towel. Talk about how without God, our hearts are empty. Then fill in the heart with red marker. Talk about how, when we accept Jesus into our hearts, He fills us. Then draw some hearts above the first heart. Talk about how there are other hearts in the world, in need of love. Talk about how God wants us to share the love He gave us with others. Then place the bottom of the paper towel in the water. Talk about how the water is God, and when we are in Him, we are able to share love. As the water is absorbed, you should see the red marker shifting up to the other hearts, filling them. Talk about how we can share love. Mention some practical ways, but emphasize that it must be through being saturated with God, not of our own strength.



Text: Exodus 34:6-7

Exposing Love Myths

- The _____ myth.

- The _____ of the compatibility myth is a relationship with less heartache and less hard work.

- The second love myth – relationships can be _____.

God's Enduring Nurturing Love

- Covenants help us _____ to our relationship with God and others.

- Covenant love (agape) is _____ love.

Life Enrichment

What part of today's lesson encouraged, challenged, or disturbed you? Why?

- Why are promises so important to making and keeping covenants?
- What kinds of promises do we make when committing to the covenant of marriage?
- Which of the categories of covenant promises (permanence, responsibility, and love) is central to the growth and development of the covenant? Why is that category central?
- What are some of the common "love myths" of American culture? How do they affect the way we view relationships and live in them?
- Why do you think we buy into the compatibility myth? Why does a relationship requiring little work hold out such appeal?
- Why do you think God's love is pictured as "womb-like?" How does that help us form a better understanding of family relationships?
- Of the eight Greek words for love, which do you think our culture is most interested in?
- Why do you think biblical writers chose *agape* to describe Christian love? How can we demonstrate *agape* in our families? Friendships? Churches?
- How would your relationships look different if they were lived out through *agape*?