

LOVE IS A VERB | 12-20-15

REFLECT & DISCUSS

What is one of the most heartfelt gifts you have given or received on Christmas? Why do we give gifts to those we love? How would people feel if we only talked about love but didn't show love? God's love for us is unconditional, undeserved, unending, and inseparable. It is truly the best gift He has given us. In purest form, God's love was shown to us when He sent His Son as a gift of rescue for us. Take a moment to thank God together for His incredible love.

READ: *1 John 4:7-8*

How do you know someone loves you? Why is it important to act on love and not just talk about it? Respond to this statement: The more we love, the more we know God. The less we love, the less we know God. Why is love so central to who God is?

READ: *1 John 4:9-10; John 15:13*

What is one example of a great act of love that you have experienced in your life? God showed how much He loved us by sending His Son to be a sacrifice for our sins and to empower us with life. What have you sacrificed for those you love? Why is sacrifice the greatest form of love?

READ: *1 John 4:11-12*

How does God's love inspire and empower us to love others? These verses infer that others can see God in our love for each other. Our love for each other is evidence of God. How does this motivate you to genuinely love others? Is God's love started or finished in us when we receive Christ as Savior? How is God's love made complete in us? Read verse 12 again. How does it impact you to know God trusts and empowers you to complete His love in others?

CHALLENGE

True love must move from words to actions. Think of ways to intentionally practice your love for others this week. How can you sacrifice for others to show your love for them?

PRAYER

Father, thank you for showing your great love for me by sending your Son to die for my rescue and freedom. Help me to actively sacrifice for others so they can know you and experience your love made complete in them.