



ANSWERS: Unit 1: Who Is God?

Learning to know and love God for who He is, His character, attributes, and being.

Lesson 3 God Is Love

Day One

Love comes from God

1. Read 1 John 4:7. Where does love come from?

God

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Read John 17:24 and answer questions 2–5:

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” John 17:24 (Glory is referring to Jesus’ eternal splendor.)

2. Jesus is talking to God. What is the name Jesus uses to talk with God?

Father

3. What kind of relationship *should* the name father describe in one’s life?

A loving relationship with one who provides, protects, listens, and communicates well. The father even disciplines in love and for the good of the child.

4. What kind of a relationship did you have with your earthly father? Comment on your past and present relationship.

Personal Answer

5. How long has God the Father loved God the Son?

The Father has loved the Son since before the creation of the world; forever.

6. Read John 17:5. Was Jesus with the Father before the world began? **Yes** | No (Underline One)

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. John 17:5

7. Read Psalm 136:3–6. Why do we give thanks to God, the Lord of lords?

Main answer: His love endures forever. Also, He alone does great wonders and by His understanding made the heavens and the earth.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever. ⁴to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever. ⁵who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever. ⁶who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever.

Psalm 136:3–6

8. Do you trust or believe that God truly loves you? Yes No Maybe (Underline One)

Personal Answer

9. Explain why or why not you believe that God truly loves you.

Personal answer; encourage each other in God's love.

Action Step

10. Memorize Jeremiah 31:3:

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

11. I prayed the written prayer from my heart: Yes No (Underline One)

Heavenly Father, thank You for this lesson on love. Please use this lesson to show Your love to me. Help me to know and love You in return. Give me the faith to believe in You and Your perfect and everlasting love for me. Amen.

Personal Answer

—End Day One—

Day Two

God has Feelings and Emotions

12. Please share a time when your love for someone was not returned.

Personal Answer

13. Read Psalm 78:40. The Israelites rebelled against God in the wilderness and grieved Him in the wasteland!

How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the wasteland!

Psalm 78:40

14. Have you ever thought how your actions concern God? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer.

15. How do *you* love God back?

Personal answer, but here are answers from this lesson:

There are many ways to love God. One way of loving God is particularly important. We need to obey Him. Both the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 28:1, 11:1; Jeremiah 7:23) and the New Testament (John 14:15, 14:23, 15:14; 1 Peter 1:2) make this clear.

Another way to love God is to love our neighbor. A neighbor is anyone in need. We love God by helping the hungry, stranger, poor, sick, imprisoned, hurt, injured, weak, orphan, widow, blind, lame, needy, grieving, and foreigner (Matthew 25:35–45; Luke 10:25–37; Acts 20:35; James 1:27; Job 29:11–17; Psalm 10:14, 146:9; Isaiah 58:7–8). A challenging way to love God is by loving and helping our enemy (Matthew 5:43–48).

Action Steps (16–17): Prayerfully consider three ways to express your love to our triune God. Practice each one over the next three days and write about it.

16. List each way you are practicing loving God and write about the experience:

Personal Answer

17. It would be a worthy life goal to explore and practice loving God. Will you make this a life goal (aim, purpose)? Yes No Maybe (Underline One)

Personal Answer

Read Hosea 11:1–4 and answer questions 18–22:

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ²But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. ³It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. ⁴I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.”

Hosea 11:1–4 (Ephraim is another name for Israel, the northern kingdom.)

18. How does God refer to the people of Israel (v. 1)?

A son or sons.

19. How did God feel about the people of Israel (v. 1)?

God loved them.

20. How did Israel go away from God (v. 2)?

They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. Or simply turned to idols.

21. Who taught and healed Israel (v. 3)?

God

22. How did God lead the people of Israel (v. 4)?

God led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love.

23. Read Colossians 3:5. What are some of the things that belong to our earthly nature and are idolatrous?

Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5

24. Read Matthew 23:37 and Hosea 11:1–4. How are Jesus’ words to the people in Matthew 23:37 similar to God the Father’s words to the people in Hosea 11:1–4?

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I [Jesus] have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.” Matthew 23:37 (Prophet is a person who speaks for God.)

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. ³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.
Hosea 11:1-4

In both Matthew 23:37 and Hosea 11:1–4, God expresses deep love and care for His people, desiring to protect and guide them. However, despite His efforts, the people repeatedly reject Him. Jesus laments Jerusalem’s unwillingness to accept His protection, similar to how God in Hosea mourns Israel’s turning away despite His nurturing and kindness. Both passages highlight God’s persistent love and longing for a loving relationship with the people who were not willing. The people do evil and turn away from God.

From the lesson: God the Son, like the Father, expressed His love for the people and His sadness over their sin. God wants a loving relationship with us, but many are unwilling to accept it. We would rather go our own way, which is the wrong way and the way to destruction.

Action Step

25. Read and meditate (think deeply) on Isaiah 53:3. How do these words about Jesus express His love for *you*?

Personal answer, but here are some thoughts: Jesus willingly suffered and put my welfare above His own. He experienced both physical and emotional pain (rejection) for my benefit. Benefits include salvation, personal relationship with God, example to follow and His teaching us how to live.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Isaiah 53:3

—End Day Two—

Day Three

God sends His Love

Read John 3:16 and answer questions 26–28:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (“World” means all people in this verse.)

26. Does God love you? Yes No (Underline One)

27. How did God prove His love for you?

God gave His one and only Son Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins in order for us to have eternal life and escape His wrath.

28. How do you receive eternal or everlasting life?

Believe or trust in Jesus.

Bible reference in lesson:

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 1 John 2:2–3

Read 1 Peter 2:24 and answer 29–31:

“He [Jesus] himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

29. Who bore or carried our sins in His body on the cross?

Jesus

30. How have you been healed of your sins?

By believing and accepting Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for me.

31. Jesus died so that we would die to sin and live for righteousness.

Read John 10:9–15 and answer questions 32–36:

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the

good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10:9–15 (Jesus is speaking and using figurative language.)

32. Jesus says, “I am the gate.” What is the meaning of His words: “whoever enters through me will be saved” (v. 9)?

Jesus is the only way to salvation. Or the only way to heaven or eternal life. Jesus saves us from God’s wrath. We enter by belief and trust in Jesus.

33. Who does the thief represent (v. 10)?

Satan, Lucifer, devil.

34. Who does the hired hand represent (vv. 12–13; compare Jeremiah 10:21, 23:1–2)?

The hired hand represents false teachers or prophets; those who really do not inquire or seek the Lord and do not care about the sheep (people). Hired hands in this context are only interested in their wages and not the sheep.

Bible references in question:

The shepherds are senseless and do not inquire of the LORD; so they do not prosper and all their flock is scattered. Jeremiah 10:21

“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 23:1–2

35. Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his ____ **life** ____ for the sheep (vv. 11, 15).”

36. Who do the sheep represent (vv. 12–15; compare Psalm 100:3; Zechariah 10:2)?

God’s people. Believers: people who follow and belong to Jesus.

Bible references in question:

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

The idols speak deceitfully, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd. Zechariah 10:2

Read Deuteronomy 9:7–8 and answer questions 37–38:

Remember this and never forget how you aroused the anger of the LORD your God in the wilderness. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the LORD. ⁸At Horeb you aroused the LORD's wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you. Deuteronomy 9:7–8 (Horeb is the location where Moses received the Ten Commandments, and sometimes it is identified with Mt. Sinai.)

37. Moses is speaking to the Israelites. What does he want them to remember (v. 7)?

How they aroused the anger of the LORD in the wilderness and had been rebellious.

38. At Horeb you aroused the Lord's ____ **wrath** ____ so that he was ____ **angry** ____ enough to ____ **destroy** ____ you (v. 8).

Bible references in lesson:

Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin. ” ³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made. Exodus 32:34-35

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:27

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. John 1:12–13

39. Read Revelation 20:15. What happens when a person's name is not written in the book of life?

Thrown into the lake of fire or hell.

Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15 (The lake of fire is the same as hell.)

40. Read Romans 5:8. Who accepted God's wrath for sin and revealed God's incredible love for us?

While we were still sinners and deserving of God's wrath, Christ died for us.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

41. Read 1 John 5:3–4 and Revelation 3:5. How can you be sure that your name will never be blotted out of the book of life?

We can be sure our name is not blotted out of the book of life because we trust in, obey, and follow Jesus.

In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:3–4 (compare 1 John 2:3–4)

The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. Revelation 3:5

Bible reference next to 1 John 5:3–4:

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 1 John 2:3–4

Bible reference in lesson:

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Revelation 13:8

—End Day Three—

Day Four
The Cross

Read Romans 1:18–32 and answer questions 42–45: (vv. 18–20 are shown below):

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:18–20

42. What do people receive who hold back (suppress) the truth and do evil (v. 18)?

The wrath of God.

43. What are things we can know about God, even without the Bible (vv. 19–20)?

God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature.

44. Do people, anywhere on the earth or living at any time in history, have an excuse for not believing in Creator God (v. 20)? Yes | No (Underline One)

45. Explain your answer about people having or not having an excuse for believing in God.

Personal answer: however, the Bible says that people are without excuse.

Read Jeremiah 32:30–33 and answer questions 46–48:

“The people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in my sight from their youth; indeed, the people of Israel have done nothing but arouse my anger with what their hands have made, declares the LORD. ³¹From the day it was built until now, this city has so aroused my anger and wrath that I must remove it from my sight. ³²The people of Israel and Judah have provoked me by all the evil they have done—they, their kings and officials, their priests and prophets, the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem. ³³They turned their backs to me and not their faces; though I taught them again and again, they would not listen or respond to discipline.” Jeremiah 32:30–33 (After Solomon, Israel divided, with Judah becoming the southern kingdom.)

46. Why was God angry with the people of Israel and Judah (vv. 30, 32–33)?

They did evil by making idols and turning their back to God. They would not listen or respond to discipline.

47. In the above passage, underline God's response to the people for the evil they had done. What is one word you would use to describe God's attitude toward the people?

Anger, wrath, or even provoked.

48. Are people less sinful today than they were in Israel and Judah? Yes | No (Underline One)

Read Romans 3:25–26 and answer questions 49–51:

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:25–26 (Atonement means to bring together as one those who were enemies. Forbearance is patience, restraint, mercy.)

49. How did God demonstrate His righteousness (v. 25)?

He presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement to be received by faith.

50. Why does God let the sins of His faithful people committed before Jesus' death go unpunished or without penalty (vv. 25–26)?

He did it to demonstrate His righteousness.

51. Read Romans 5:9. How are you saved from God's wrath?

Through trusting in Jesus Christ and sacrifice.

Since we have now been justified by his [Jesus] blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:9

Bible references in lesson:

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me." John 5:39

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." Acts 10:43

Bible references in lesson:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." John 8:34

52. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9b–10, 5:9. Who saves us from the coming wrath?

Jesus

They [believers in other churches] tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. 1 Thessalonians 1:9b–10.

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 and answer questions 53–55:

53. Why does Christ’s love compel us to live for Him (v. 14)?

Because He died for us and we have died to ourselves.

54. How do *you* live for Christ?

Personal Answer

55. How do *you* live in loving union with God?

Personal answer; however, next day’s lesson is about union with God.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answers #53–55 with your discipleship team.
For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (The Greek word translated “compel” means to oblige or hold fast.)

—End Day Four—

Day Five
Union with God

Bible references in lesson:

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of¹ his Spirit who lives in you.
Romans 8:11

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
John 14:20

Read 1 John 4:9–10 and answer questions 56–57:

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9–10

56. How did God show His love among us (v. 9)?

He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

57. What is love according to v. 10?

God sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

58. Read Jeremiah 30:21b–22. What does God promise for those He brings near?

They will come close to Him.

“I will bring him near and he will come close to me—for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?” declares the LORD. ²²“So you will be my people, and I will be your God.”
Jeremiah 30:21b–22

59. Read Galatians 2:20. How did the apostle Paul say he lived?

He lived by faith in the Son of God.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

Action Step

60. Read 1 Corinthians 6:17 and Romans 8:11, 14 below and pray for a holy and vibrant (lively, deep, bright) union with God. Answer the following question:

Have you prayed for a holy and vibrant union with God? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
Romans 8:11

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:14

61. Read 1 John 4:16. What can we rely on?

We can rely on the love God has for us.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16

62. Read Ephesians 5:1–2. How should we treat others?

In love by following God's example.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:1–2

Action Step

63. Read and meditate on Psalm 36:5–6. Describe God's love in your own words:

Personal Answer

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. ⁶ Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals. Psalm 36:5–6

64. Share Psalm 52:8–9 from memory without looking at it:

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. ⁹ For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people. And I will hope in your name, for your name is good.

65. How does Robertson's care for Muriel inspire you to show Christ's love in your own relationships?

Personal Answer

66. What sacrifices might God be calling you to make in order to love others selflessly, as Robertson did for his wife?

Personal Answer

67. In what areas of your life can you prioritize others' needs, reflecting the kind of love Robertson showed Muriel?

Personal Answer

—End Answers Day 5 and Lesson 3—

Next—Unit 1: Who Is God, Lesson 4: God Is Sovereign

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