



# Relen less

*And I am convinced that nothing  
can ever separate us from God's  
love. Neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor demons, neither  
our fears for today nor our worries  
about tomorrow—not even the  
powers of hell can separate us from  
God's love. No power in the sky  
above or in the earth below—  
indeed, nothing in all creation will  
ever be able to separate us from the  
love of God that is revealed in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 8:38-39*

# Monday

(Jesus Loves You!)

**Reading:** Luke 15:11-32

God loves everyone. There are so many Christians that make him proud each day because of the way that they treat other people. But there are even more people in the world who don't follow Jesus. It breaks God's heart to see his children hurt and mess up. He wants so badly for them to come to him so that he can make them feel better in a way no one else can. That is why the father in the story rejoices when his lost son returns home, even though he has another son at home already. Every person is important. Even you. I mess up a lot. Sometimes I feel like I don't deserve to be loved. Jesus knows our hearts and loves us even when we mess up. He knows when we are sorry for the mistakes that we make. Just like the father in the story, Jesus always runs to us to welcome us home. We never have to wonder how much Jesus loves us.

**Discussion:**

- Have you ever lost something that's really important to you, and found it later? How did you feel?
- Why do you think the father was so happy when his son returned even though the son left the family in the beginning?
- When you hear the word, "Love," what do you think of? Is there a specific picture or event that pops into your head?

**Further Study:**

- Luke 15:1-7
- 1 Peter 5:6-7
- John 15:9
- John 15:12

# Tuesday

(God is fair.)

## **Reading:** Psalm 5

Yes, Jesus loves you, but he is also fair. He hates for the beautiful things he created to be mistreated- including people and nature. He hates when people are treated poorly. God is fair because he will judge everyone based on what he says is right and wrong. The Bible gives us very clear guidelines to follow about what is right and wrong. The fact that God is fair in his judgment of us is important in our lives because it keeps us responsible for our actions. However, it is impossible for any person to do only good. Everyone messes and is guilty of doing something wrong in their life, whether it's a lie, or bullying, or breaking a rule. Tomorrow's bible dig will look at how God is able to not only be a fair God, but also a God of mercy.

## **Discussion:**

- Think about a time when you were treated unfairly. What happened? How did you respond?
- Do you think you responded the right way in the example you just thought of? If not, how could you have responded in a more loving way?

## **Further Study:**

- Romans 3:23
- Micah 6:8
- Luke 6:27-28

# Wednesday

(He Loves You So Much That...)

**Reading:** Mark 15:1-39

God loves you so much that he sent his only son to die for you. Jesus came to earth so that he could feel everything that you have ever felt and go through some of the same hard things that you do. Have you ever thought about that? Jesus knows exactly (I said EXACTLY) how you feel. He's been there. He's been tempted. He's been hurt. Whenever I am going through a really hard time, I imagine Jesus sitting right beside me with his arms wrapped around me, wiping every tear that falls from my cheek. He's been through all of the same things we have, and he decided to take your place when it's time to take the blame for the wrong things you've done. He decided that you were worth dying for, even before you were born. Even though he knew you were going to mess up again and again, he loved you so much that he said you were worth it. He died for you just so that He would have an opportunity to know you and form a relationship with you, and eventually spend forever with you. He loved you that much. None of us deserve that love, but by accepting Christ as your savior and believing that he is God, you will get to spend forever with him one day.

**Discussion:**

- Has your life ever been saved? If not, imagine a movie or book where someone's life was saved. How did it make you feel?
- Write down on a piece of paper the answers to these questions:
  - Do you believe that you are loved? Why?

**Further Study:**

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 3:26
- John 15:13
- Ephesians 2:4-5

# Thursday

(Love God, Love Others.)

**Reading:** Matthew 22:36-40

These are the most important rules in the whole Bible. When the Bible says to love your neighbor as yourself, it means that you should be loving everyone. But you have to actually love yourself before you love others. Pretend that the love we have for ourselves is represented by cups full of water. So everyone has a cup in front of them, and the amount of water in the cup is how much love that person has for themselves. Say a friend's cup is empty, and they need me to help them. If my cup is empty, I cannot fill up my neighbor's cup because there is nothing in my cup for me to give them. In other words, if I don't know how to love myself well, how will I be able to really love my neighbor? This is the sequence the Bible gives us:

**Love God > Love Yourself > Love Others**

The Bible tells us who we are as children of God. This is where we should be finding out who we are. Not from your parents, or your friends, or your boyfriend/girlfriend. Our identity comes from God. He says we are **worthy**. He says we are **never alone**. He says we are so **desperately loved** and **sought after**. So ask yourself: Do you love yourself and who Christ says you are?

**Discussion:**

- What gets in the way of you loving yourself?
- What is getting in the way of you loving others?

**Further Study:**

- 1 John 4:19
- 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7
- 1 Corinthians 16: 14

# Friday

Now It's Your Turn.

**Reading:** John 8:1-11

Love isn't always easy. It can be hard to love someone who is unkind, or making bad choices, or hurting you. But Jesus never told us to love only good people. Or only other Christians. In this story, Jesus is showing love to a woman who doesn't deserve it. He doesn't get away with the mistakes she made. In fact, He tells her to stop doing wrong. But never once does He make her feel bad for what she has done. I challenge you all to leave this week loving others the same way that Jesus does– without a doubt.

**Discussion:**

- Look at the paper you took notes on for Wednesday's devotional. Has your answer changed?
- How are you going to love others that don't deserve it this week?

**Further Study:**

- Romans 12:9-11
- Romans 13:8-10
- Romans 8:35-37
- 1 Peter 4:8