



God's Love For Us (week1)

God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.' **Billy Graham**

Two friends in WWI that were inseparable, enlisted together, trained together, were shipped overseas together and fought side by side in the trenches. During an attack, one of the men was seriously injured in a field covered with barbed wire and was unable to return to his foxhole. The entire area was under withering enemy crossfire and it was suicidal to try to reach him. Yet his friend decided to do so. Before he could get out of the trench the sergeant yanked him back inside and ordered him not to go. "It's too late, you can't do him any good and you'll only get yourself killed." When the sergeant turned his back, the friend was gone. A few minutes later he staggered back, mortally wounded, with his friend, now dead, in his arms. The sergeant was both angry and deeply moved, "What a waste he blurted out. He's dead and you are dying, it just wasn't worth it."

With his last breath the dying man replied, "Oh yes it was, Sarge. When I got to him the only thing he said was, 'I knew you would come.'"

Friends, God's love for us is a love that continues to come after us, no matter what we have done, where we are or what the circumstances in life are. His love is relentless and the cross of Christ is the greatest evidence of God's love the world has ever seen. If you're looking for a definition of love, don't look in the dictionary, look at the cross. Today, we are going to examine a passage of Scripture that provides a fresh look at the scandalous, unconditional, relentless love of God.

Bible Study: I John 4:7-18

In this section, you can either complete the study on your own or with a small group of other men. If you are doing the study as a group, have each person share with the group one blessing they experienced this week and one challenge they are facing this week.

After you have shared with one another, proceed through the questions below.

Slowly read through I John 4:7-18.

1. What do you learn about God's love for mankind from this passage?
2. What do these other Scriptures teach us about God's love? Romans 5:8, Romans 8:35-39, John 3:16, John 15:13
3. How is God's love for us different from the love we normally experience in our relationships?
4. In I John 4:18 it says, "there is no fear in love." How would knowing that God loves us completely and unconditionally allow us to go through life with no fear?

5. Having experienced the love of God in our lives, what does it look like for us to be a conduit of that love to the world?

The most significant aspect of God's thoughts and feelings about you is his unconditional, sacrificial, scandalous, relentless love for you.

Application

- With nothing to prove, nothing to gain and nothing to lose, how can you walk through life differently?
- What is one thing you want to do differently this week as a result of God's Relentless love for you?
- Who is someone you need to love with the love of Christ this week? What does that look like?
- Who are you going to share with about what you learned this week in your study? Here is the principle: You have not learned something until you are able to explain it to others.

Additional Resources

[*Crazy Love*](#) by Francis Chan

[*What's So Amazing about Grace*](#) by Philip Yancey

No Regrets App:

God's Relentless Pursuit of Man by Gordon McDonald

Though our feelings come and go, God's love for us does not. **C.S. Lewis**



TOGETHER IS BETTER THAN ALONE (Week 2)

Growing up, one of the things I loved was going to my cousins because they lived close to a farm that raised Clydesdale horses. As a small boy, I was absolutely amazed at their size and strength. A Clydesdale can pull up to 5,000 pounds alone. However, with training and coordination two draft horses can pull more than 15,000 pounds! Together is better than alone. It is no different in life. In this study, we are going to look at the power of meeting together with other men, so that you might go further and make a greater impact as a father, husband and man.

Getting Started

- If you have been in a small group of men in the past, what were some benefits?
- What do you see as some consequences of going through life by yourself?

Bible Study – Mark 2:1-12

At its core, this is a story about male friendship and what commitment to one another looks like and how connecting to and working with other men can be transformational. Read the passage slowly and answer the questions that follow. If you are doing the study as a group, have each person share with the group one blessing they experienced this week and one challenge they are facing this week.

1. What do we learn about the Christian community from this passage?
2. What do we learn about the cost of being in community?
3. What does it look like today to get men into the presence of Jesus so He can bring healing and transformation to their lives? What does that look like in a small group setting?
4. What other lessons have you learned from this passage as it regards to being in a small group and in relationship to other men?
5. Over the years I have continually reminded men that isolation is not masculinity, it is stupidity. Would you agree or not agree and why?

Application

- If in a men's small group, what do you need to do to be more open with your lives, more accountable for your actions and more committed to transformation?
- If not in a men's small group, what do you need to start one in your church or community?

Other Verses for Study: I Samuel 14:1-13, Proverbs 27:17, 18:24, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Hebrews 10:24

Additional Resources

[*Character That Counts*](#) by Rod Handley

[*The Accountable Man*](#) by Tom Eisenman

[*Brothers*](#) by Geoff Gorsuch

[*Locking Arms*](#) by Stu Weber

No Regrets App:

Male Friendship by Troy Thomas



Living in the Storms of Life (week 3)

*You don't really know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have. **Tim Keller***

The first officer saw the light of a ship in the distance that seemed to be coming straight toward their vessel. Knowing what was about to happen, he got on the radio and called to the ship, "This is the first officer of such and such Navy vessel. You are on a collision course with us and you must change your heading. The ship radioed back, "That is a negative. *You* must change *your* course." The first officer replied, rather urgently, "You must move over, I am a U.S. Navy Battleship." The mysterious ship replied, "I won't move; you must move." The first officer was furious. He called for the captain, who in turn sent the message, "I am the captain of a U.S. Battleship. You must change your course." The voice sounded over the radio, "I am the watchman of the lighthouse. I cannot move. You must change your course."

Oftentimes like this battleship, when the storms of life hit us we get blown off course and don't know where we are going. Storms are inevitable, the question is not if, but when. In our passage today we are going to learn how we can handle storms when we experience them.

Bible Study - Mark 4:35 – 41

Read the passage slowly and then pray for God to guide your time.

1. What do you learn about God from this passage?

2. What do you learn about mankind from this passage?

3. How do we normally respond to hard times? How is our response like the disciples' response?

4. If God loves us, why does He allow us to go through storms in life?

Application

- What does it mean for Jesus to calm your storms?

- How do you know the peace of God in the midst of a storm?

- Is Jesus a passenger in your life or the pilot? Is he cargo or the captain of your life?

One of the things guaranteed in life is adversity, we will all experience 'storms' in life. In the middle of the storm, the disciples had to ask themselves a question, will we trust Jesus or not? The same is true for each of us. We have a heavenly Father who knows what is best for us, and will do what is best for us. He is a loving Father who will never allow us to go through the storm alone, and He will give us the grace, wisdom and strength to get through it. And as we learned last week, when facing a storm in life, don't go it alone.

Other passages to study: Philippians 1:12-21, 4:6-7, Ephesians 3:20, James 1:2-5, I Peter 4:12, Isaiah 43:1-2

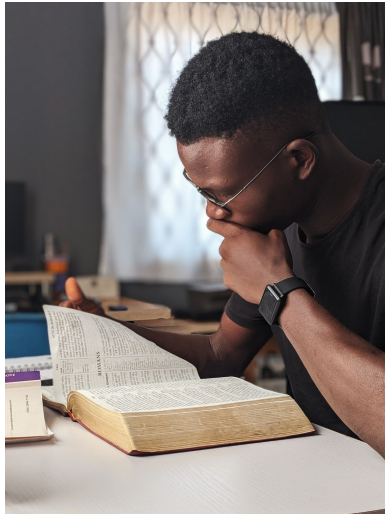
Additional Resources

[*Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*](#) by Tim Keller

No Regrets App:

Going Through Hard Times by Walter Harvey

Adversity by Brian Sonderman



Pursuing Christ With My Entire Being (week 4)

The story is told of a dad who took his son to bed, read him a story, said his prayers and went downstairs. Moments later he heard a loud thud upstairs and ran back up the stairs only to find his son on the floor next to his bed. When he asked his son what happened his son replied, "I must have stayed too close to where I got in!" Isn't that exactly what a lot of us do in the Christian life? We stay too close to where we got in. We may have been a Christian for a number of years but have never grown up in Christ. We are still acting, talking and thinking like baby Christians. Today, we are going to examine what it means for each of us to grow up in Christ and relentlessly pursue knowing Him on a deeper level.

Bible Study – Philippians 3:4-14

This is one of my favorite passages of scripture and was very instrumental in my coming to Christ in high school. Read through it slowly and then answer the questions.

1. What do you learn about God from this passage?

2. What do you learn about mankind from this passage?
3. How does Paul differentiate between knowing about God and knowing God?
4. Paul gives us four practical steps for relentlessly pursuing Christ on a daily basis. What do each of these look like for you? A realistic appraisal of yourself – v12; Forgetting what lies behind – v13; Single-mindedness in life – v13; Forward Reaching – v14

Application

- What are you going to do this week to know Christ more fully?
- What are some obstacles to you growing in your faith?

Other Verses for Study: Jeremiah 9:23-24, Colossians 2:6-7, 3:1-17, Hebrews 10:24-25, 12:1-3, II Timothy 3:16-17, I Corinthians 9:24-27, I Timothy 4:7-8

I can still remember the day I read this passage for the first time and realized that I knew a great deal about God, but did not have a relationship with God. It was absolutely life changing. John, the man who led me to Christ, then helped me grow in that relationship and stressed the importance of being in the word, on my knees and living in obedience to Christ. He reminded me regularly that Christianity is not fire insurance for heaven, but a life of getting to know Jesus more and more every day.

Additional Resources

[Growing Your Faith](#) by Jerry Bridges

[*The Life You Have Always Wanted*](#) by John Ortberg

[*Disciplines of a Godly Man*](#) by Kent Hughs

[*Too Busy Not to Pray*](#) by Bill Hybels

[*Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*](#) by Don Whitney

No Regrets App:

How to Grow Your Faith by Walter Harvey

Getting Started in the Christian Life by Erick Lettner

Learning How to Pray by Matt Erickson



Dealing With Temptation (week 5)

Paul Harvey tells an incredible story describing how Eskimo's kill a wolf simply by coating several layers of frozen blood on a sharp knife sticking out of the frozen tundra. Apparently the wolf picks up the scent and after circling the knife warily begins licking the frozen blood. He begins to lick faster and faster as the desire for blood literally drives the wolf wild. So great becomes his craving that the wolf never notices the sting of the sharp blade on his tongue as the blood being consumed gradually becomes his own. Morning finds the wolf lying dead in the snow. Tragically, this is the way it is with temptation in our lives as well. We see something, want something, circle around for a while and then give in. Like the wolf, oftentimes our going back to it over and over again can kill a relationship, hinder our relationship with Jesus, and hurt us physically or emotionally. In this lesson we are going to look at an example of a man who handled temptation in a good way, with a number of lessons to be learned.

Bible Study: Genesis 39:1-18

Read through this story slowly so you capture all that is taking place. If in a group, make sure to have each person share one blessing from the past week and one challenge you are facing this coming week.

1. What do you learn about God from this passage?
2. What do you learn about the enemy's strategy to take you out?
3. What are some things that Joseph did to deal with the temptation?

Application

- What is your plan for dealing with temptation in your life?
- Dealing with temptation begins with being honest with yourself: What is fire for you? What boundaries do you need to put in place?

Other Passages to Study

Matthew 4:1-11, Hebrews 12:1-3, James 1:12-15, I Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 6:9-17, II Samuel 11:1-27, Proverbs 4:23, Job 31:1

One of the truths of scripture is that Jesus does not leave us alone when it comes to dealing with temptation in our lives. Here are four tools God gives us:

1. **The Scriptures:** There is a direct correlation between a man's grip on scripture and their ability to handle temptation. Jesus used the word when being tempted – do you know it?
2. **Prayer:** Not only do we experience God's presence when we pray, but we also unleash his power when we pray.
3. **The Presence of Others:** When the presence of others goes down, the opportunity for sin goes up. Each of us needs men in our lives who love us and want the best for us.
4. **The Holy Spirit:** The battle belongs to the Lord, and He will help fight it with us. Allow the Spirit control of your life today, so he can transform you from the inside out.

Additional Resources

[Temptations Men Face](#) by Tom Eisenman

[Fight](#) by Kenny Luck

[Point Man](#) by Steve Farrar

[Every Man's Battle](#) by Steve Arterburn

No Regrets App:

Sexual Purity by Rod Hairston

Filled with the Spirit by Stuart Briscoe

A man not in a small group is a moral acid



Living For the Audience of One (week 6)

There was once a traveler who came from Italy to the French town of Chartres to see the great church that was being built there. Arriving at the end of the day, he went to the site just as the workers were leaving for home. He asked one man, covered with dust, what he did at the work site. The man replied that he was a stonemason; he spent his days carving rocks. Another man, when asked, said that he was a glassblower who spent his days making slabs of colored glass. Still another workman replied that he was a blacksmith who pounded iron for a living. Wandering into the church, the traveler came upon an elderly woman, armed only with a broom, who was sweeping up the chips and shavings from the day's work. "What are you doing?" he asked. The woman paused, leaned on her broom. Looking up toward the high arches, she replied, "Me?" I'm building a cathedral for the glory of the Almighty God." So are we all.

Bible Study: Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

The universal human craving in life is for recognition and praise. Paul encourages us to reject that craving and to “live for an audience of One.” Living for the audience of One is a matter of motive and behavior. Our intention and action are rooted in what He and He alone thinks about us. We speak and act for His praise or to avoid His criticism. Simply put, we care everything about the approval and disapproval of God and nothing about the approval and disapproval of people.

The calling of a Christ follower is that in everything we should think, speak, live and act entirely for Him.

1. How is this verse comprehensive in nature? When Paul says “whatever you do,” what does he mean?
2. How does this verse conflict with our tendency to compartmentalize our lives?
3. What does Paul mean by “work at it with all your heart?” What does that look like at work, home, school, marriage, parenting, with friends?
4. How is doing it for the Lord different from modern philosophies that tell us to “give it our all, give 100%, do our best, dig deeper, etc.? “
5. How was this principle exhibited in the life of Jesus?

6. What is the main application for you this week?

Other Passages to Study

Daniel 1 and 6, Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 15, I Corinthians 10:31, Mark 10:42-45, II Thessalonians 3:6-13

Additional Resources

[*A Man's Guide to Work*](#) by Patrick Morley

[*Your Work Matters to God*](#) by Doug Sherman and William Hendricks

[*Mastering Monday – A Guide to Integrating Faith and Work*](#) by John D. Beckett

[*Integrity: The Courage to Meet the Demands of Reality*](#) by Henry Cloud

[*Choosing to Cheat – Who Wins When Family and Work Collide*](#) by Andy Stanley

*I have one audience and before Him I have nothing to prove, nothing to gain, and nothing to lose. **Martin Luther***