



## The Father Is Love

**Focus** Love is one of the attributes of God. That means God doesn't *have* love, He *is* love. Our understanding of God's love impacts both our relationship with Him and our ability to give and receive love from others.

**Open** What is the kindest act you have ever witnessed?

- Talk**
1. God *is* love. If we have a distorted view of love, we'll have a distorted view of God. What can cause a distorted view of love?
  2. In Matthew 22:36–40, Jesus describes love as “the greatest commandment.” Since we’re commanded to love, it cannot be a feeling, but a choice. Why is it important to understand that love is a choice? How would your relationship with God and/or others be affected if you believed love was a feeling?
  3. 1 John 4:8 says, “God is love.” Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 aloud, substituting “God” for the word “love” throughout. As you read this passage, what description of God’s love was most meaningful to you? Why?
  4. “Love, at its core, means laying down your life” (Pastor Robert Morris). What does it mean to “lay down your life” for another? Give an example of what it would mean to “lay down one’s life” in marriage, friendship, parenting, with a co-worker, etc.

**Live**

1. God's love for us is unconditional because He *is* love, and He doesn't change. Do you feel like God's love for you changes? If yes, why do you think that is?
2. Read Romans 8:35–39. In groups of two or three, re-write this passage of scripture in your own words. Do your best to use language that you use in your daily life and not "Christian-ese."

**Pray**

As a group, tell God how you feel about the fact that His love is unconditional, and ask Him to help you understand it more completely. If you identified a specific reason why you may have difficulty receiving or believing that God's love is unconditional, pray about that as well.