

# GOD'S LOVE IS SHOWN



A 6-SESSION **BIBLE STUDY**  
FOR LENT

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## INTRODUCTION

This Lenten Bible study will help to illuminate our annual journey to the cross of Jesus, intensifying its impact on our faith and life. Two Scripture passages form the foundation of our study:

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* **1 JOHN 4:7-11**

One profound phrase stands out in these verses: “God is love.” This is what God *is*, and it determines what he *does*. Love is not simply a passive emotion.

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.* **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8**

Jesus, who is *in very nature God*, becomes a *servant*. Truly he is God’s love in action, climaxing in his death on the cross for our salvation.

Begin this study with a prayer that your mind and heart will be open to the Gospel of God’s love as it is shown to us and conveyed to us by the servant who is *obedient unto death, even death on a cross*. May his death continue to rescue you from the death of sin and renew you for a life of love in Christ.

*Paul Scheidt, author*

## SESSION 1



# Redemptive Love

*This is what the LORD says—he who created you,  
O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.” ISAIAH 43:1*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we gather as your beloved people, grateful that you have made us your own. Speak to us through Jesus, whose suffering and death we celebrate in this Lenten season. Forgive our sinfulness, affirm our faith, and enable us to live as your own people in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **REDEEMED**

1. **Read Isaiah 43:1.** What are the two reasons we are God's own?
2. Why is redemption so necessary?
3. What motivated God's Son to go to the cross to redeem us?

## **LAW AND GOSPEL**

The following passages speak of Law (our guilt and inability to free ourselves from sin) and of Gospel (God's gift of redemptive love through Jesus and his cross).

1. **Read Romans 3:19-25a.** Identify Law and Gospel phrases in these verses.
2. What is the source of redemption?
3. How do we receive it?
4. Why is it so necessary?

## **THE CRIMINAL AT THE CROSS**

1. **Read Luke 23:39-43.** What is the criminal's confession?
2. What is the criminal's prayer?

3. What does he offer to Jesus?
4. What does Jesus expect from him?
5. Now put yourself in this story: What is your confession?
6. What is your prayer?
7. How does Jesus respond to your request?

### **THE EXAMPLE OF ZACCHAEUS**

1. **Read Luke 19:1-10.** Why did Jesus go to the house of a “sinner”? (v. 10).
2. Zacchaeus’ life was changed. Is that *why* Jesus gave him redemptive love or *because* of it?
3. Does this have any relation to the gift you have received from Jesus?

### **TREASURES**

1. **Read Matthew 13:44-46.** What is the hidden, priceless treasure Jesus is speaking about?

2. What hides the value of the kingdom from us?
3. What causes more anxiety, earthly or kingdom concerns?
4. Consider your “treasures”: What is your most valuable treasure? How long will it be your house, car, whatever?
5. **Read Matthew 13:22.** Does the “deceitfulness of wealth” affect your life? Or have the roots of sin been thoroughly uprooted from your heart? Redemptive love does make a difference, doesn’t it?

### **TAKEAWAY**

What do you expect to take home from this session?

### **PSALM 25:6-7 (READ RESPONSIVELY)**

**L** *Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love,*

**C** **For they are from of old.**

**L** *Remember not the sins of my youth,*

**C** **And my rebellious ways;**

**L** *According to your love remember me,*

**C** **For you are good, O Lord.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Precious Savior, we praise you for your loving grace shown to us by your cross. As your love has paid the price to make us yours, continue to change our sinful hearts and lives by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to rejoice in your redemptive love and to reflect it to all those around us. Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*(Tune: Hyfrydol 87 87 D)*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
Let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.