



MON 8-22

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE**
- ▼ **THOUGHT**

Psalm 63:3

"Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!" [NLT] The generous love of God inspires us to be loving people. When we make time to be with God and soak in this love, it fills us and spills over. Spend a few extra moments sitting in silence with God today. Decide to start your week with a full tank!

- ▼ **PRAYER**

Loving God, I want to live a life that encourages others and brings them hope. Thank you for your unfailing love that inspires me and energizes me to do your work. Amen.

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TUES 8-23

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE**
- ▼ **THOUGHT**

Jude 1:20-21

"But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched, ready for the mercy of our Master, Jesus Christ. This is the unending life, the *real* life!" [MSG] How do you intentionally stay at the center of God's love? As with any relationship, achieving closeness requires quality time together. Our ability to love is tied to how fully we experience God's love!

- ▼ **PRAYER**

God of grace, I need your mercy every day. Thank you that it never runs out. Help me prioritize spending time with you so that I experience real life full of perfect love. Amen.

NOTES: _____

WED 8-24

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE**
- ▼ **THOUGHT**

Isaiah 54:10

"For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing will never be broken,' says the LORD, who has mercy on you." [NLT] Nothing can stop the love of God. Despite our tendency to wander, God's mercy and care for us will remain. It is our solid foundation!

- ▼ **PRAYER**

Faithful Lord, thank you for your eternal fountain of mercy. I am so grateful for your unconditional love. Help me to express my gratitude in every interaction that I have with the people you have placed in my path. May my words and actions be yours to use each day. Amen.

NOTES: _____



THURS 8-25

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE** **1 John 4:16**
- ▼ **THOUGHT** “We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them.” [CEB] Followers of Christ must know *and* believe in the saving love of God. True belief leads us to obedience. Jesus gave us the new commandment to love each other as he loved us, and obeying that command will no doubt require selfless sacrifice. Jesus showed us exactly what that looks like.
- ▼ **PRAYER** **Almighty God, it is very easy for me to put my own needs and happiness first in my life. Remind me every day that you have called me to do the opposite. Show me how to grow in prioritizing others. Amen.**

NOTES: _____

FRI 8-26

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE** **Romans 12:10**
- ▼ **THOUGHT** “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” [NIV] When is the last time you thought about a specific way to honor someone in your life? Showing admiration and respect can take many forms. Take a few minutes today to do something specific for someone in your life today.
- ▼ **PRAYER** **Lord Jesus, thank you for the way you showed me to love. Grow my awareness of how I make others feel. Help me to listen to your spirit as I move through my day so I will make choices and decisions that lead to more love in my life and in the lives of those around me! Amen.**

NOTES: _____

SAT 8-27

- ▼ **SCRIPTURE** **Ephesians 4:32**
- ▼ **THOUGHT** “Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” [NLT] One of the hardest decisions we make over and over throughout our lives is the decision to forgive. This decision is life-giving not only for the person you forgive, but for you! There is a reason we are told to forgive--when we don't, it ultimately hurts us.
- ▼ **PRAYER** **Merciful God, I trust in your wisdom. Your clear direction to me is to forgive those who wrong me. I want to obey, but it is hard. Please give me strength and trust to follow your guidance. Amen.**

NOTES: _____

DIGGING DEEPER

▼ Intro

What does love require of me?

There's a question you can ask yourself that will bring inescapable clarity to just about every relational decision you'll bump up against. But a word of warning: it's not for the faint of heart!

▼ Reflect

- *What does love require of me?* When you ask yourself that question, what relationship comes to mind? Why?
- Read John 13:33-35 aloud. "Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." [NLT] What key phrases stand out to you and why?
- Jesus gave us a new commandment, and when you think about it, it covers everything! If we love each other like Christ loved us, we have a perfect model for how life is done right. Consider the way you think about what is right and wrong. Do you think in terms of a list of dos and don'ts? Is it easier or harder to simply ask, *what does love require of me?*
- When someone doesn't treat you the way you want to be treated, what is your natural response? If you consider your typical response in light of this week's question, what do you notice?
- The Spirit of God will always nudge you toward kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Brainstorm practical ways you can turn up the volume of *that* voice in your life.

▼ Prayer

Lord Jesus, I want to bring honor to your name because of the way that I treat people. I want those who suffer in darkness to have their eyes opened to the light of your love. Thank you for using me each day as I follow you. Amen.



DIGGING DEEPER

▼ What did I learn? _____

▼ How might it apply in my life? _____

▼ What is a next step I can take? _____

