

REFLECTION GUIDE

8.27.23

INTRO

The spirit of God working in us can produce beautiful things in the midst of our chaotic world! When we stay connected, God allows us to both experience and share love in a way we never thought possible!

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

Loving God, I pray that you would help me to make time each day to quiet my mind and give my attention to you. I pray that in these times, you would open my heart to the ways I need to grow and change so that sacrificial love becomes more evident in my life. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- Who in your life comes to mind when you think of a good example of what it means to love?
- Why do you think that person had the capacity to demonstrate such love?
- The term "fruit of the spirit" refers to Galatians 5:22-23. "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" [NLT]
 - Which of these qualities would you say are most evident during this stage of your life? The least?
 - How do you think the Holy Spirit "produces this kind of fruit"?
 - What routines or strategies might be useful to implement in your life to foster this?
- Love is the first "fruit" listed in the above list. Why do you think that might be the case?
- In 1 John 3:16-18 we read, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." [NIV]
 - Is it possible to experience true love for someone and it remain only a feeling? Why or why not?
 - Based on the example of Christ, what is required of someone who shows love to another?