



the week of
December 14-19



DAY ONE God's Love Read 1 John 4:10

This week, we saw that **God created Christmas so he could show us his love**. God is love and this is his heart for us. Admittedly, sometimes this doesn't feel true. Life is full of challenges and pain and the natural tendency is to think, God doesn't love me. The pain just doesn't make sense with what we know to be true of God. But today's passage teaches us that God's love for us isn't grounded in how pleasant our current circumstances are. It's grounded in the cross and the death of Christ.

At the cross, God demonstrated his incredible love for us by pouring out the full weight of his wrath on Jesus—his anger was rightly coming our way. And God knows pain. He sacrificed his only Son to bring us back to himself. Circumstances were less than ideal for him as well. Yet, true to his character, God expressed his perfect love toward us by pouring his wrath out upon his only son. This is love.

IN YOUR CHAIR TIME TODAY

Today, to impress this truth in our hearts, memorize 1 John 4:10. Write it on a notecard and keep it with you throughout your day. May we be overwhelmed with God's love and be reminded he loves us first.

DAY TWO Read Romans 3:21-23

Read the passage and then choose one verse/thought related to your words and answer one of these three questions:

1. What does it say about God?
2. What does it say about you?
3. What does it say about others?

As you spend time in the Chair today, think about God's words and their importance and respond appropriately to what you read.

DAY THREE Real or Fake Read 1 John 4:7-12

The Apostle John wrote to believers experiencing divisions in their church. To help the believers identify the fake believers versus the real ones John writes, *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another* (1 John 4:11).

God showed his incredible love for us as Jesus died on the cross in our place. This should cause us to erupt with gratitude and worship. But it's not enough to simply enjoy Christ's love for us. This love was intended to overflow from us to the church around us. Because of the cross, we should be more patient with our families, more selfless with our resources, and more compassionate with the broken.

The body of Christ should feel the impact of the cross in our lives.

IN YOUR CHAIR TIME TODAY

This works great when everyone is looking out for someone. God places people with needs right in front of us—we don't have to look far. So, in light of the cross, choose someone you can look out for today. Consider those you naturally interact with and choose now how you can show them an extra measure of Christ's love flowing through you.

DAY FOUR Read Romans 3:24-26

Read the passage and then choose one verse/thought related to your words and answer one of these three questions:

- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an application to make?
- Is there something new about God?

As you meet with God today, talk to Him about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.