

APPLICATION

- God's love is like a parents love for a child. The parent loves the child even before the child knows the parent. God's love is like that. He pursued us even before we knew it or were ready to receive it. We can freely choose to receive God's love or not receive it. We can freely choose to love or not love God in return. God still loves us either way. His choice to love us precedes any response from us.
- Any time you feel unloved, or not very lovely, think about how Jesus has loved you, wanted you and chosen you even though He knew you were imperfect and would make mistakes, fall short and sin. Good parents do not love their children any less for making mistakes and falling down as they grow. God's love is the same for you and even greater!
- Share one way you can demonstrate God's type of love to someone else who might not understand or know God's love yet.

Prayer

Jesus thank You that You loved us before we ever knew You. Thank You that You loved us so much that You chose to give up Your life for us. Thank You that Your love for us came before anything we ever did or failed to do. Jesus help us to truly understand the love You have for us so that we can receive it and confidently enjoy it forever. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. Yet there are many setbacks, heartaches and road blocks along the way. Trying to overcome the issues we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to freedom. Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



LOVE

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Share a time when you have been shown love when you did not deserve it.
- Why did you fall in love with your spouse?
- Describe a time when you have seen God's love misrepresented. What affect did that have?
- Describe a time when you have seen the genuine love of God bring revelation, freedom and transformation to someone's life.

WORD

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:7-12

Love is such a powerful thing. Some say it is the most powerful force in the universe. That would be hard to prove. What is not hard to prove is that love is one of the most powerful forces in our lives. Love is fundamental. It is foundational to a healthy, fulfilling life. It is hard to live if there is no love. Without love so many areas of our lives become hard and locked up. We all need love. Being loved makes us feel accepted. It makes us feel wanted. Love makes us feel as though our life matters and that we are important. Love unlocks so much in our lives that it is impossible to measure its far-reaching effects. Love makes life worth living. Love is powerful!

1 - Love experienced as acceptance.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you. 1 Thessalonians 1:4 New International Version

Love or hate. Those are two powerful words. Acceptance or rejection are also powerful words that often express the way in which we feel loved or hated. By listening to people talk and hearing the cries of our culture today, we know that people are longing to be accepted. Why? Because acceptance is one of the key ways that we experience love. It is hard to feel loved if you are not accepted. Can you share a time in which you were accepted and this acceptance made you feel loved?

2 - Not just accepted but chosen!

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you. 1 Thessalonians 1:4 NIV

God is love. He is the source and fountainhead of love. God's love goes way beyond how we normally experience and think of love. God does not just accept us. Even as wonderful as acceptance is, there is something much better. It is being chosen! In love, God chose us. We are chosen and dearly loved by God! It's amazing that He actually chooses us. Can any of you share a time when you came to realize that God chose you because He loves you?

3 - Jesus: The God who choose us!

¹¹ In Christ we were chosen to be God's people. God had already chosen us to be his people, because that is what he wanted. Ephesians 1:11 The International Children's Bible

There are many voices, messages, causes and religions in the world today that are crying out for you to choose them. They are not choosing you. They want you to choose them! Jesus is different. Before you could ever choose Him, He chose you. He chose you over His own life. Why would He do that? Because He wants you to know and experience His love for you! What difference does knowing Jesus choose you make?