



CHOOSE LOVE



Highlight Scripture: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:10-11



Explain: You’ve probably heard at church or at home that you should love others. But you may have wondered, what does that look like? What does it really mean to love others?

Love looks different from what you see on TV. It looks different than what you hear in the hallways at school. True love, the way God meant it, looks way different than the way we see it portrayed. Many times, the definition of love on TV or at school goes something like this: “I’ll love you, if you can do something for me, or if you can give me something.” However, this isn’t the meaning of “loving others” that the Bible describes.

First John chapter 4 verses 10 and 11 say, “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the payment for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” These verses show us that God defines love differently than what we see at school and on TV. God didn’t wait for us to be able to give Him something for Him to love us. God loved us first and gave His Son before we even knew Him. Wow, that’s LOVE! Then God challenges us to take the love He gave to us and show it to others.

Loving others isn’t based on how others treat us. It is based on God’s love and grace, which empowers us to then love others. We are to love others and value them, not because they have done anything to deserve it, but because it is the example God showed us first. But don’t take my word for it. First John chapter 4 verse 19 says, “We love because He first loved us.” So today choose to love others. Treat them with respect that’s not based on what they can do for you or how they treat you, but rather is based on how God treats you!



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Apply: Today's Help Tool will help you share with others that Jesus loves them and so do you. We are going to use a simple Valentine's Day card to tell others about the love of Jesus. Choose today to show LOVE.



Respond: Take a few minutes to pray over and personalize your Valentine's Day Cards.



You can print these resources here!



Bottom Line: We love others because God first loved us.