

Week Four - Love

Read John 3:16

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Do you love your family? Yes, I know you do (even if sometimes they get on your nerves!). So what do you love about your family? Take a moment to go around to each person in your family and share something you love about them.

John 3:16 is probably one of the most well-known verses in the Bible. And it speaks directly of the love God has for us. The love you have for your family does not even come close to the love God has for you.

God had promised the Israelites that a Savior was coming (remember our devotion on hope a few weeks ago?). He had prophets (like Isaiah) tell everyone that He would send someone for all people. This person would be a King. And most importantly, our Savior.

But the Israelites' version of a king was different than what God was sending. They believed the king God would send would be born in a royal palace. They believed the Savior of the world would be royalty. They kept careful watch and expectation of this Savior, but they were looking in the wrong places.

This King wasn't born in a royal palace. In fact, He was born in the most unexpected place. But He was born just like God said he would be...in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes (Luke 2:7). So those first cries of Jesus didn't come from the king's palace. Those cries came from one of the lowliest places. But those cries were the sound of love. A love that we can never fully give to someone else. A love only the Almighty God can give to us.

God gave to us because He loved us. He gave to us because He wants us to live forever with Him. Jesus was sent down from heaven to be born on this earth to be the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. God gave us the best gift we can ever receive, the gift of a Savior.

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John 3:16 is a verse that is so powerful and life-changing that often times when I truly read and digest this verse, I am moved to tears. How could someone love me so much? I will never fully understand, but I am eternally grateful for God's decision to send Jesus to be born on this earth. Because of God's great love for us, I will be able to live forever with Him. Today, let the light of Christ's love shine in your life.

Light the Candle

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Have one person in your family take a lighter and light the first purple candle of Hope, the purple candle of Peace, and the pink candle of Joy. Then light a the 4th and final candle, which represents Love.



Discuss

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It's easy to say what we love about others, but not as easy to say what we love about ourselves. What do you love about how God created you?

Closing prayer

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Glorious God, words cannot describe how truly grateful we are for the birth of Jesus Christ. Thank You for sacrificing Your own Son for each of us. May we all remember the amazing Love You sent to this earth. In Jesus' name, Amen.