



# Journal

## Chapter 21: LOVE

### Personal Study

Last week you examined the practice of sharing your faith. Perhaps you were inspired to share your story with someone outside the Christian tradition. This week we shift our attention from spiritual practices to Christ-like virtues. Before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 21: Love*. Then, ask yourself how this virtue manifests itself in your life.

### Read

*Read Believe, Chapter 21: Love and answer the following questions.*

1. Describe the common patterns found in these verses.

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2. As you read this chapter, what questions came to your attention?

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3. What did you read that stunned you?

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Challenged you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Motivated you? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How can all of the Bible's commandments be summed up under the command to love God and others? How does this simplify the Christian life?

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5. What part does sacrifice and service play in the virtue of love?

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6. If love originates with God, what must we do to grow in this virtue?

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### **Evaluate**

*Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 21: Love, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).*

- \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace enables me to forgive people who have hurt me.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I rejoice when good things happen to other people.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I demonstrate love equally toward people of all races.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I frequently give up what I want for the sake of others.

### **Take Action**

*Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week's Key Verse to memory.*

**Key Verses:** "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. 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 4:10 – 12)

*Recite this week’s Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, does my life reflect this statement?*

**Key Idea:** I am committed to loving God and loving others.

*Answer the following questions to help you apply this week’s Key Idea to your own life.*

1. How would this virtue express itself in your life?

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2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who embodies the virtue of love?

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3. What is impeding your ability to embrace this virtue? How can you overcome this obstacle? \_\_\_\_\_

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How can you overcome this obstacle? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What action step can you take this week to love more like Jesus?

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