

LoveWell Ministries Bible Study

Love Involves Sacrifice



LOVEWELL MINISTRIES
LOVE. DISCIPLINE. REPEAT.

I. In this Bible study you'll be looking how love involves sacrifice, and how pride and selfishness get in the way of that. Take some time right now to pause and invite the Holy Spirit in to guide your thoughts and feelings as you go through this study.

II. Love involves sacrifice.

- Think about a time when someone else made a sacrifice for you and it made you feel loved. In the space provided, write about the experience and how it made you feel.

- Think about a time when you sacrificed for someone out of love. In the space provided, write about the experience and how it made you feel.

III. Selfishness

- According to GotQuestions.org, a selfish attitude stands as a blockage to our spiritual growth and walk with Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:21-22).

Selfish ways do not promote the Great Commandment (to love God and others) or fulfill the Great Commission (to go and make more disciples of Christ). So, selfishness does not produce fruit for the Lord. It prevents us from loving God and others well and sacrificing of ourselves the way God calls us to. What are some areas in your life that tend to show a little selfishness?

IV. Balance

- Balance is defined as a condition in which different elements are equal *or in the correct proportions*. Pay special attention to that last part... balance is when two different things are in the correct proportions. We aren't called to be completely selfless, as it's important to make sure we are getting what we need from the Lord so that we are operating out of full cups. All throughout the Gospels we see examples of Jesus taking time away from people to be with the Father. He is staying connected to the vine and giving time to his relationship with God. Seeing how much Jesus sacrificed for and served the people He encountered, why do you think it was important for Him to spend time away from people connecting with God?

V. God showed us what to do.

- Love involves sacrifice. God went first and showed us what this means. First, Jesus gave up His divine privileges. Then He willingly died on the cross for our sins. This was and is the greatest expression of love we will ever know, and from it we are transformed and get an abundant life with our Creator for eternity. Through God's sacrificing for us, we get to join God on the greatest rescue mission ever, and we get to love Him and others well because of the love we receive from Him.

- **Read John 3:16-17** and answer the following:

What does this passage teach you about God?

What does this passage teach you about sacrifice?

What does this passage teach you about yourself?

- **Read 1 John 3:16-19** and answer the following:

What does this passage teach you about sacrifice?

- What are some practical ways you can apply these verses and make sacrifices for others?

- **Read Hebrews 13:15-16** and answer the following:

What does this passage teach you about loving God?

*Do good and share what you have with others... this is your praise to God. You are just a steward of what God has given you. You should generously give yourself away, trusting that God will provide you with what you need.

- **Read Ephesians 4:17-32**

We must die, with Christ, to our old way of life. This involves giving up doing things our own way. It also involves not placing value in the things of the world. Loving the way Jesus commands us to love involves making sacrifices. These sacrifices can be anything from time to money to certain activities that differ from what God would have us be doing. Either way, loving the way Jesus did is going to cost us just as it did Jesus. As we receive Christ, what He did for us on His cross, and God’s love, we reflect that love back to Him by laying down our lives and taking up our own crosses. Our lives become living sacrifices, and we become His true disciples.

When we sacrifice for the sake of love, we’re transformed. When love transforms us, we do things differently. We pray for the coworker who makes our life difficult instead of talking about them behind their back. We steward purity and the sanctity of marriage by not engaging in sexual activity outside the confines of marriage or doing anything that might compromise honoring God, our partners, or ourselves. We’re generous with our money, and our time and talents, knowing that our Heavenly Father has unlimited resources. This list goes on and on as we continue to sacrifice of ourselves for the sake of love. We sacrifice the things we want to do for the things God wants us to do. And, in the end, there will be rewards in heaven for doing so.

How can you practically apply this in the days and weeks to come?

IV. Reflection

- Spend some time meditating on (re-reading and thinking about) the passages you read during this Bible study on love involving sacrifice (John 3:16-17, 1 John 3:16-19, Hebrews 13:15-16, Ephesians 4:17-32).

Think about what Jesus did for you and how He has loved you well through the years.

After about 10 minutes of meditating on the passages, invite the Holy Spirit in to show you any old ways that need to die and anything that needs to be sacrificed in order for you to walk in the fullness God has for you. In the space provided, write down what you are hearing from the Holy Spirit.
