

**UN
CHANGE
ABLE**

WEEK 5



DAY 17: GOD = LOVE

And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. 1 JOHN 4:16

Pause

Spend a few minutes pondering the depth of God's love for you and the ways He daily reveals that love to you. Thank Him for being a loving God.

Think for a moment about the word love. Is love something you can actually touch, see, hear, or smell? Or is love something that is experienced when it's demonstrated? Write your definition or journal your thoughts below.

Scripture has a very clear and succinct definition of love: God. Read 1 John 4:14-16 in your Bible. As you read, circle the word love any time it is used.

- How can God be the definition of love? How is the statement "God is love" different from saying God is loving?
- Being loving is not one of God's many activities; instead, all of His activities are permeated with love because He is love. What would the world be like if this were not the case?

DAY 17: GOD = LOVE

Behind the Story

In the New Testament, three Koine Greek words are used for love:

- eros: sexual passion
- philos: friendship
- agape: lovingkindness

John used agape exclusively to characterize the special, unconditional, and compassionate love God has for humanity.

The Point

Love does not completely define God, but God completely defines love. Love can never be absent from God's being or any of His actions because it is the very essence of who He is.

Respond

Love is the very essence of who God is. Love isn't just one of God's many activities or attributes; it's at the very core of who He is. Look for evidence of God's love in your life and in the world. Spend some time simply praising Him for who He is: Love. Record your praises below.

DAY 18: NEVER ALONE

19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Pause

Go to a place where you can be alone and away from distractions. Begin your quiet time by pondering this quote from A.W. Tozer: “Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one.”

Think about your closest friends. If you were leaving them and had the opportunity to speak some final words to them, what would you say?

When Jesus was preparing to ascend to heaven, He also spoke some final words to His followers. His final words involved both a commission and a promise. Look for both as you read Matthew 28:19-20. Highlight or underline what Jesus commissioned His followers to do; circle His promise.

- What did Jesus tell His followers to do in these verses?
- Write Jesus' promise in verse 20 in your own words.
- What does Jesus never leaving us have to do with making disciples? Explain.

DAY 18: NEVER ALONE

Behind the Story

This passage is called the “Great Commission” because it is a huge task that all believers are called to. It includes making disciples, which involves both sharing the gospel and helping believers understand and observe the whole of Scripture. Baptism is also vital, as it symbolizes a person’s submission to Christ and a desire to live God’s way. As we obey and boldly proclaim the gospel, we can rest in the knowledge that we aren’t alone, but empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Point

We are the broken tools God is using to build His kingdom. The only way we can do the work He has called us to—making disciples—is because He is with us and in us.

Respond

Witnessing and helping other believers grow in their faith isn’t something you should do in your own power. You need the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

- Pray for people in your life who don’t know Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts to the gospel and place people—even you!—in their lives who will share the gospel.
- Who has been a spiritual mentor or helped disciple you in the faith? Send a note, text, or message thanking them for their godly influence in your life.

DAY 19: STEADFAST LOYALTY

Know that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps his gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commands.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

Pause

Take a moment to think about God's faithfulness. Consider listening to Sandra McCracken's "Steadfast" from the album *God's Highway* (2017) or one of your favorite worship songs.

Read Deuteronomy 7:9-12 in your Bible. As you read, circle the words that teach you something about God's loyalty.

- **What does it mean to say that God is loyal for a thousand generations? Why is that important? (Hint: See the definition that follows.)**
- **How have you seen God be faithful to the generations of your family, church, or Christians in general? Explain.**
- **In a world where people are loyal only as long as it benefits them, why is it important to know God's loyalty isn't like that? Explain.**

DAY 19: STEADFAST LOYALTY

Behind the Story

In Deuteronomy 7, Moses was giving the Israelites God's instructions for claiming the promised land. The Israelites were to drive the other nations out of the land. God would then guide, protect, and give the people victory over these enemies—but Israel must remain obedient and faithful to Him. Israel's future and their spiritual health depended on their obedience to God's command. As we face temptations and evils in this world, we must also be obedient to God, driving out anything that would pull us away from Him.

A thousand generations: A phrase meaning “endlessly” or “forever.” It denotes an immeasurable future, not a specific span of time.

The Point

God is loyal and faithful— and He always acts out of His character.

Respond

How has God been loyal to you? Examine your life for examples, then praise God for how He has been faithful. Record your praises below.

DAY 20: EVER FAITHFUL

Praise the Lord, all nations! Glorify Him, all peoples! 2 For his faithful love to us is great; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Hallelujah! PSALM 117:1-2

Pause

Think of three ways that God's faithfulness has been revealed to you and thank Him.

Read Psalm 117 in your Bible. Circle any words, phrases, or punctuation in the passage that indicate how the psalmist felt about God's faithfulness.

- **What reason did the psalmist have for praising God?**
- **Why is God's faithfulness a big deal?**
- **How have you seen God's faithfulness at work in your life? In someone else's?**

DAY 20: EVER FAITHFUL

Behind the Story

Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible. The words translated “faithful love” and “faithfulness” are Hebrew words that refer to loyalty based on a covenant relationship and God’s reliability. In other words, you can count on God to keep His promises.

The Point

At the core of His character, God is faithful. He always has been and always will be. That fact invites the awe, worship, and praise of all people.

Respond

God’s character is faithful, so it is impossible for Him to be unfaithful. Take some time to ponder how that truth affects your life. Use the space below to write your own short hymn of praise about God’s faithfulness. Consider sharing it on social media.

For further study on God’s faithfulness, read Deuteronomy 7:9, 2 Timothy 2:13, and Malachi 3:6.