

### THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD

#### Sharing

1. If you were in a wreck and thought you were going to die, to whom would you want to leave a message that you loved them?  
I'd leave a message to: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which are more important: written or verbal messages of love? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your choice: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are there ways that love might be shown that is neither spoken nor written? \_\_\_\_\_  
What are some ways that love is shown without words? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name some ways that God shows His love without words? \_\_\_\_\_
5. God also has shown His love to mankind through the written word. We call the written word the Bible.

#### Studying

6. God's love for us was evident from the beginning of our world's history. When Adam and Eve sinned, God didn't abandon them. He intervened in a wonderful way and made a way of escape by promising them a Savior.
7. Read the promise given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15 "I will put \_\_\_\_\_ between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall bruise His \_\_\_\_\_."  
Enmity means 'hostility.' The 'you' refers to Satan. The woman is Christ's church and 'her seed' are Christ's followers. While Satan can do no more than bruise the heel of the woman's seed, Christ will crush Satan's head. Christ defeated Satan at the cross. Hebrews 2:14. Satan's reign of terror will end and the universe will be cleansed from sin forever. See Program 17.
8. The whole Bible is about God searching for man! Jesus told three stories in Luke 15: 1-31 about 'lostness' and how God seeks to find each person who is lost. From these stories we learn that people are lost in three ways. **People may:**
  - **Realize they're lost but don't know the way home,** (Read the story that Jesus told in Luke 15:1-7 about the lost sheep. Jesus went looking for that one sheep when He heard his cry for help. All heaven rejoiced when that one was found.)
  - **Have no idea they are lost,** (Read the story that Jesus told in Luke 15:8-10 about the lost coin. The coin had no idea it was lost, yet the woman searched relentlessly for it and called all her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her when it was found.)
  - **Deliberately turn their back on God and walk away.** (Read Jesus' story in Luke 15:11-22 about a prodigal son who deliberately turned his back on his father's love and walked away. He knew the way back and when he, one day, came to his senses, he returned. Note in verses 20-24 how his father received him! This illustrates how God loves us and will receive us when we come to Him.)
9. How many does Christ want to save? 2 Peter 3:9 He is not willing that \_\_\_\_\_ should perish but that \_\_\_\_\_ should come to \_\_\_\_\_.

# BIBLE BREAKTHROUGH

## PROGRAM 1: THE AMAZING LOVE OF GOD

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10. God loves us so much that He never overlooks us or forgets about us! This is a difficult concept for many people who have had a troubled childhood or have been abandoned by a parent or a marriage partner. Discuss someone you know who has difficulty with trust as a result of their past experiences.
11. God's love is far beyond that of humans. We live in a sinful world and must never confuse God's character or His love with that of our earthly parents. God's love for each of us is unconditional.

Jeremiah 31:3 "I have loved you with an \_\_\_\_\_ love; Therefore, with \_\_\_\_\_ Kindness I have \_\_\_\_\_ you."

12. There is only one word for 'love' in the English language, so the meaning often is confusing. Name some things you 'love.' \_\_\_\_\_

13. In the Greek language of the New Testament there are four descriptive words for 'love' so they aren't confusing:

- **Eros love** describes passionate love for a spouse.
- **Phileo love** describes brotherly love for a friend.
- **Storage love** describes affection for family members.
- **Apage love** describes God's unchangeable love.

14. God's love for each of us is \_\_\_\_\_ love. It is not sentimental or fickle. He, Himself, is the essence of love and it is His nature to love. His very being is love.

15. Is there anything that we can do to make God quit loving us? \_\_\_\_\_ The most amazing aspect of God's love is that He loves us all the time and in every circumstance of our life. He loves us when we're good. He loves us when we're bad. Nothing we can do will change His love for us. It is unconditional and we humans have difficulty understanding this kind of love because it is beyond the realm of our emotions and beyond our intellect.

16. God loves us so much that He died to redeem us so that we could live with Him forever! The love of God is so awesome and so beyond our human responses. We tend to love those who love us. We also tend to believe it's okay to dislike people, especially if they've been mean to us. Jesus wasn't like that. Even when He was on the cross He said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" Luke 23:34. That love, so unconditional, is difficult to grasp.

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to \_\_\_\_\_ for his friends."

John 3:16 "For God so \_\_\_\_\_ the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believed in \_\_\_\_\_ should not \_\_\_\_\_ but have everlasting life."

17. What can separate us from the love of God?

Romans 8:35,37-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What does this promise mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

## Applying this lesson

18. Jesus came to this world and died for our sins to give us the opportunity to live with Him forever. When man sinned, the face-to-face relationship with God in the Garden of Eden was broken. Jesus wants to restore that relationship with us by forgiving us for our sins.
- I will ask forgiveness of all my sins so that God can restore His relationship with me. When I ask, God forgives and my sins are blotted out. Read Acts 3:19.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I understand and accept that, when I ask, God forgives all my sins.
19. God's love never changes and His love for us is not based on our behaviors. Unfortunately, we often get knocked around in this world and therefore have little concept of the depth of God's love for us. We need to realize that God's love is different than the love we experience on earth. Read Psalm 27:10.
- I will trust in God's unfailing love for me as He has stated in His word in spite of my 'feelings' that tell me that I am bad, unworthy, or that God could not love a sinner like me.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I understand and accept that God's love for me never alters or fails regardless of my behaviors.
20. Many argue that if God's love never changes no matter how we behave or what we do, then we don't have to study the Bible or do what God says. Doing what we please often brings sickness, disease, misery, depression and unhappiness. God created us and He, alone, knows our hearts and what will make us happy. Read Psalm 37:4.
- I will begin through daily prayer, Bible study and submission to God to delight myself in the Lord and in things of the Lord knowing that only He can satisfy the deepest needs and longings of my heart.
  - A check mark at left indicates that I understand that God knows what is best for my life and He has outlined principles of living in His word for my benefit so that I might be healthy and happy.
21. Being saved in the Kingdom of God for all eternity is a decision. The only part we play in our salvation is to say, 'Yes, I choose Jesus Christ.' If we choose Jesus Christ as our Savior the Holy Spirit will lead us to repentance and we will be saved. The choice is up to each individual. Read Joshua 24:15.
- I will choose Jesus Christ now and experience the new life He has planned for me!
  - A check mark at left indicates that I understand that God will love me no matter what I do. However, God will never override my will. I must choose Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in order to be saved in His kingdom.