

**God is Love**

**Monday, 6/8/09** – Read **1 John 4:7-12** (*first letter of John, not the gospel of John*)

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: The Bible says many things about God. But the Bible only says that IS one thing -- LOVE. What does that mean to you, to say that God IS love? Jot down your thoughts. ... Notice one more thing (in verse 10): God takes the initiative; God loves us first. Does it seem that God has taken the initiative toward you? Has God reached out to you? How have you experienced God’s loving initiative in your life?

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**Tuesday, 6/9/09** – Read **1 John 4:13-17** (*first letter of John, not the gospel of John*)

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: What do you make of verse 16? That those who “abide” in love “abide” in God (and God in them)? ... This word (“abide”) is a favorite and used many times in John’s gospel and in this first letter of John. Abide has the sense of remaining, staying, hanging out. It’s related to “abode” -- one’s home or home base. ... What it look like in your life to make love your abode, your home base?

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**Wednesday, 6/10/09** – Read **1 Corinthians 13**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Maybe the best known definition of love is this chapter in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. As you read it through again, read it slowly and think about the phrases and what they mean. Sometimes it’s easy to skim over well-known, familiar passages like this one. ... Which of the statements about love are a challenge to you, which one do you have most difficulty living?

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**Thursday, 6/11/09** – Read **John 13:34-35**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Jesus offers himself as the example and model of love. How did Jesus love? What’s most impressive to you about Jesus’ love? Give an example. ... Has anyone else ever loved you the way Jesus loved? Have you ever loved someone that way? Jesus instructs us to love that way, to love as he loved. What’s one thing you can do to love just one person the way Jesus loved?

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**Friday, 6/12/09** – Read **Luke 15:11-32**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Jesus told stories. When he really wanted us to understand something, he told a story. Today’s reading is one of Jesus’ best known stories. What does it tell us about love? Be specific. Does this story picture for us what love “looks like”? Describe it for yourself: based on this story,

what does love look like? ... What does this story tell us about the God who is love?

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**Saturday, 6/13/09** – Read **Matthew 25:31-46**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: Here's another of Jesus' stories. Does this story also show us what love looks like? Describe in your own words what this story says about love. ... What does this story tell us about the God who is love?

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**Sunday, 6/14/09** – Read **1 John 3:18-23** (*first letter of John, not the gospel of John*)

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: What is love? Lots of people think that love is a feeling. Today's reading suggests that love is ACTION. What is the ACTION that is love? (Maybe look back over some of this week's other readings for hints and clues.) ... What does this passage tell us about the God who is love?

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*My Faith Journal, June 7, 2009*

## **What God IS**

**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

**What action do I intend to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*