

YEAR OF GROWTH

LOVE WEEK 2

EXAMPLES

Old Testament:

In the Old Testament there are many examples of men and women who showed love. However, God is the greatest example of love one can know. We will focus on several instances that help us to understand the nature and action of genuine *agape* love.

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe love. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of love and prepare to explore important Bible examples.

Day Two – Monday

Genesis 22:1-8

The first time any form of the word “love” is found in the Bible is here in Genesis 22. The word is first used to describe the relationship, care, and affection that a father has for his son – his “only-begotten” son, the son of promise. Despite the greatness of that love, the father (Abraham) was willing to sacrifice his son (Isaac) to obey and honor the God of Heaven. God never intended for an actual human sacrifice to take place. He was demonstrating His great love for all mankind. He would, in fact and in actuality, allow His only-begotten Son (Jesus) to be sacrificed for the sins of the world (John 3:16). There is no greater picture of love!

Day Three – Tuesday

Deuteronomy 7:6-11

God chose the children of Israel to be a holy and special people to Him. Yet, He did not love them because of their numbers. Instead, verse 8 indicates that God loved them simply because He loved them! God will punish those who reject His love, but He still loves all. We should love Him in return and show our love by obeying His will.

Day Four – Wednesday**Hosea 3:1-5**

This passage was studied previously as an example of patience. However, it is also a tremendous demonstration of love. Hosea was commanded to love his wife even though she had been unfaithful to him many times. She found herself sold into slavery because of her own sinful choices. Yet, Hosea bought her from bondage and brought her back to his home. This was merely a glimpse at how much God loved (and loves) His people. No matter how many times they sinned, God was willing to take them back when they repented. He will still do the same today.

Day Five – Thursday**1 Samuel 18:1-4**

The friendship between David and Jonathan is another fitting example of true, *agape* love. Though Saul was envious of David, Jonathan spoke truth to him and sought to protect him (18:9; 19:1-6). Jonathan knew that the Lord had chosen David to be Israel's next king. Thus, he was loyal to him even though it meant that he would not follow his father Saul as king (20:30). These two men demonstrate the true love of brotherhood – always seeking what was best for one another in harmony with the will and covenant of God.

Day Six – Friday**Exodus 32:30-35**

The children of Israel sinned greatly by building and worshipping a golden calf. Yet, Moses still loved them and sought to atone for their transgression. He loved them so greatly that he offered to take their place in being blotted out of the book of God. Moses was willing to be lost for all eternity to save the souls of the sinful Israelites! This allows us to glimpse the love of Jesus for sinful man. He went to the cross and suffered terribly so that we would not be lost.

Day Seven – Saturday**Ruth 1:14-18**

Ruth demonstrated great love to her mother-in-law Naomi. She refused to leave her or to be separated from her. Instead, she left her own home and her own people to help and to support Naomi. Love is loyalty. We must have the same kind of devotion to God – to love Him so much that we will never leave Him.