

God with Us

2020 Be in Christ Advent Devotional



December 6

LIFE GIVING LOVE

Corinne Jones Chua, Bluewater Church, Kincardine



Read *John 15:9*

Reflect Can you name one activity that refreshes and uplifts you? Baking with your grandchildren? A hot coffee in the stillness and solitude of morning? Now ask yourself, do these things happen naturally in your day-to-day rhythm or do you have to fight for them? If you're like me, the things that you find most life-giving are the things that require the most intention. The busyness of life has a way of crowding out those restorative moments, until days go by and you realize you've barely slowed down long enough to catch your breath.

Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love." A few verses later, Jesus announces that His followers are then meant to reflect this very same love to the people around us, but first, He emphasizes our need to abide (accept, remain, dwell) in His love. God's love for us is never-ending, available 24/7. If His love is like an overflowing well, we are like empty buckets. We must intentionally place our bucket under the flow of water to be filled. As we've already admitted, the things that nourish us are often the things that fall through the cracks of daily living. Jesus invites us to step away from the pressures around us so that we can soak up God's love within us. When we believe we are loved, we live loved, and will carry love to those around us as naturally as a tree bears fruit.

Pray *Jesus, thank you for your thirst-quenching, life-giving love! Today, I pause to remember that your love is the house in which I dwell and the place where my true identity is found. Amen.*

Discussion Questions

FOR WEEK TWO, LOVE

1. What is your favourite Christmas movie? Why?
2. What is your favourite winter activity? Why?
3. Read December 6th reflection written by Corinne Jones Chua called *Life Giving Love*.
4. Read John 15:1-17. What stands out to you? What is one key idea, question or thought?
5. What does it look like for you to remain connected to The Vine? How might you further develop this connection with Jesus? What kind of fruit are you hoping to see?
6. How does the way you experience the love of Jesus shape the way you love others?
7. What is your plan to practically love someone this coming week?
8. Spend some time praying together as a group.



BE IN CHRIST