

Discipleship Guide: Love Boldly

Focus:

Jesus teaches that love is at the heart of discipleship. Loving God and loving others are not separate practices but one way of life shaped by grace. This week invites us to receive God's love deeply and allow that love to move us beyond comfort and fear into lives that reflect Christ's compassion, welcome, and faithfulness.

Day 1: Receiving God's Love First

Scripture: 1 John 4:7–11

Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. - 1 John 4:11 (CEB)

Reflection:

1 John tells us that love comes from God, because God is love. Love does not begin with our effort or ability. It begins with God's very nature and initiative. When we love, we are participating in what God is already doing. When we receive God's love as a gift rather than something we earn, our hearts begin to soften. Bold love grows not from pressure or obligation, but from gratitude and trust. As we rest in God's love, we are freed to share that love with others.

Questions:

Where do you most need to remember that you are loved today? How might living out of God's love change the way you respond to others?

Prayer:

Loving God, thank You for loving me before I ever knew how to love. Help me rest in Your grace and live from the assurance that I am held by You. Amen.

Day 2: Loving God with Our Whole Lives

Scripture: Matthew 22:37 (CEB)

[Jesus] replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind."

Reflection:

Jesus describes love for God as wholehearted. This love goes beyond words or intentions and shapes how we live each day. Loving God with our heart, soul, and mind invites us to bring every part of life into God's care. Faith is not only about

what we have received from God, but about responding by loving God with everything we are and everything we have.

Questions:

What part of your life feels hardest to offer to God right now?
What might it look like to love God with your whole self?

Prayer:

God, thank You for placing me in community. Help me show up with openness and care, trusting that You shape us as we grow together. Amen.

Day 3: Loving Our Neighbor as Ourselves

Scripture: Matthew 22:39 (CEB)

[Jesus said,] “[T]he second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. “

Reflection:

Jesus places love of neighbor alongside love of God. This kind of love is practical and embodied. It shows up in patience, kindness, and attentiveness to the needs of others. Loving boldly is more than noticing people we might otherwise overlook. It calls us to care for them, to empathize with their experiences, and to seek to understand their lives with compassion and humility.

Questions:

Who is God prompting you to see as a neighbor?
How can you love them in a simple, tangible way?

Prayer:

God, open my eyes to see the people around me. Help me love with compassion, patience, and grace. Amen.

Day 4: Loving as Jesus Loves

Scripture: John 13:34 (CEB)

I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.

Reflection:

Jesus gives a new commandment rooted in His own example. His love is self-giving, faithful, and forgiving. It does not depend on how others respond. Loving as Jesus loves invites us to remain open, even when love feels costly or vulnerable. Through Christ, love becomes a way of life shaped by grace rather than fear.

Questions:

What does Jesus' love look like in action?
Where might God be inviting you to love beyond your comfort?

Prayer:

Jesus, teach me to love the way You love. Shape my heart so that my life reflects Your grace. Amen.

Day 5: Love as Our Witness**Scripture:** John 13:35 (CEB)

This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.

Reflection:

Jesus tells His disciples that love will be the sign by which others recognize them. Before words or explanations, love speaks. When love is lived consistently and authentically, it becomes a quiet but powerful witness to God's presence. Our daily acts of love can reflect Christ in ways we may never fully see.

Questions:

How might someone encounter Christ through the way you live? What would it look like for love to guide your actions?

Prayer:

God, let my life reflect Your love. May others see Your grace through the way I live and care for them. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

God of love, thank You for meeting me with grace. Teach me to love boldly, patiently, and faithfully. When fear holds me back, remind me of Your love that never fails. Shape my heart so my life reflects Christ each day. Amen.