

Grace Guide



FEBRUARY 17-23

MONDAY
2/17

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 & LEVITICUS 19:18

From the very beginning, God commanded His people to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength and to love their neighbor as themselves. These two commandments form the foundation of what it means to follow Christ. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, He pointed to these very verses (Matthew 22:37-40), showing that true love starts with God and extends to others. Loving God is not just about emotions; it is about commitment, obedience, and worship. Loving our neighbor means treating others with kindness, fairness, and mercy, even when they do not deserve it. Jesus came to fulfill these commands perfectly and to show us what love in action looks like.

1. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength in your daily life? How do you practice this every day?
2. In what ways have you struggled to love others as yourself, and how can Jesus help you grow in this area?

TUESDAY
2/18

PROVERBS 25:21-22

Loving others is easy when they are kind to us, but what about those who hurt or oppose us? Proverbs 25:21-22 teaches that showing kindness to our enemies is not a sign of weakness but of godly strength. Jesus echoed this principle when He commanded us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). This kind of love is countercultural and supernatural – it requires the work of the Holy Spirit within us. When we respond to evil with good, we allow God to work through us and possibly even soften the hearts of those who oppose us (that's the "burning coals" part). True love goes beyond feelings; it is a choice to extend grace, just as God has extended grace to us.

1. Can you think of a time when someone showed you love despite your actions? How did that impact you?
2. Why does God expect us to show kindness to those who mistreat us and love those who don't love us?

WEDNESDAY
2/19

JOHN 15:9-17

Jesus calls us to abide in His love, just as He abides in the Father's love. This abiding is not passive – it requires us to keep His commandments, especially His command to love one another. Jesus redefines love, showing that true love is sacrificial: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (v. 13). Jesus demonstrated this love on the cross, and He invites us to follow His example. When we love as Jesus loved, we bear fruit that lasts and become a reflection of God's love in the world. Love is not just a feeling; it is a commitment to act in the best interest of others, even at personal cost.

1. How do you live a life of sacrificial love?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus calls you His friend?

THURSDAY

2/20

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

As followers of Christ, we are called to put on the character of Christ – compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. But above all, we are to clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect unity. This love is not merely a feeling but a deliberate choice to reflect Jesus in our daily interactions. It is a love that forgives as the Lord has forgiven us and seeks peace in our relationships. When the word of Christ dwells richly in us, our lives become a testimony of Jesus' love through our words, actions, and worship.

1. Which quality listed in these verses do you think you need to grow in the most?
2. How can you let the peace of Christ rule in your heart in moments of conflict?

FRIDAY

2/21

PSALM 103

God's love is beyond human comprehension – slow to anger, abounding in love, God does not treat us as our sins deserve. His mercy removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. This kind of love is radical and undeserved, yet God freely offers it to all who turn to Him. Jesus' life and sacrifice are the ultimate demonstration of this love, showing us that God's forgiveness is not limited by our past but is an ever-present invitation to experience His grace. If this is the way God loves us, how should it transform the way we love others?

1. How do you continually experience God's compassion and forgiveness?
2. Why is there such a gulf between how God loves people and how people love people?

SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
2/22-23

LUKE 6:27-38

Jesus challenges us to a love that goes beyond our natural inclinations. He calls us to love our enemies, bless those who curse us, and give without expecting anything in return. This kind of love is not transactional – it mirrors the mercy and generosity of our Heavenly Father. When we love like this, we demonstrate that we are truly children of God, reflecting His grace in a world that often operates on self-interest. Love without limits is not easy, but it is the way of Christ, and it transforms both us and those around us.

1. What change has had to happen in your life and your heart in order for you to try to love your enemies? What makes it so hard for us to love difficult people?
2. What is one practical step you can take to love someone who is particularly unloveable?

Verse for the week:

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

(John 15:12-13)

SERMON NOTES
