

## Can you feel the love?

Love is in the air! It's in heart-shaped chocolate boxes at the store, in the jewelry store fliers filling our mailboxes, in the cluster of cars at the flower shop and in the reservation books at the restaurants. In 2006 we loved each other to the tune of 13.7 billion dollars in the United States. That's a whole lot of luv'in' goin' on!

Unfortunately, even in the midst of this Valentine's frenzy, worldly love leaves a trail of broken hearts and broken marriages.

Continue with me on this quest for a new life in this new year. Enjoy the sweets, treats and flowers, but discover the sweetest treat of all; true love.

My friend, realize the truth of the love choices you make each day in your marriage, have fun with "What to Remember on Valentine's Day" and stay strong as you work through the studies. Make time for the Lord. He wants to be your first love.

In Christ's love,  
Jennifer

*"Don't the Bible say we must love everybody?"  
"O, the Bible! To be sure, it says a great many things;  
but, then, nobody every thinks of doing them."*

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

### Love is a choice.

It's not simply a feeling or an emotion.  
It's not something we can fall out of.  
It's not something we can out-grow.  
It's not something that fades away.  
It's not something that changes with the wind.  
It's not something reserved for holidays.

### Love is a choice we make every day.

It's choosing to honor and respect.  
It's choosing to be patient and to put the needs of others before ours.  
It's choosing to protect and to stand by, never giving up.  
It's choosing daily to forgive; showing grace and overlooking offenses.  
It's choosing to speak honest words of kindness.  
And, it's choosing to not speak when we can't do that.  
It's choosing to be better and not bitter.

### Love is a choice God commands us to make.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength.  
*Mark 12:30*  
Love your neighbor as yourself. *Mark 12:31*

### What choice will you make?

## What to Remember on Valentine's Day

Some lessons learned the hard way...

- ♥ Your husband cannot read your mind. He also does not know your special female code language, no matter how long you've been married.
- ♥ Don't say you don't want anything (or anything big, or anything special) unless it is true.
- ♥ If your hubby isn't into spending big bucks on flowers that will be dead in a week or doesn't want to wait in long lines to eat BUT is a good and wonderful husband the other 364 days of the year, count yourself blessed and let him off the hook.
- ♥ Husbands aren't the only ones who can make the day special. Wives can too.
- ♥ The never-fail present for your husband? A wife who thinks he's hot and sexy and wants to show him.
- ♥ The always-wrong present for anyone who is not your husband (even if you don't have a husband? Thinking they are hot and sexy and wanting to show them.
- ♥ At the end of the day, if you have been let down by your husband, know that you're not alone. The Lord Jesus is now, has always been, and will always be the greatest lover of your soul. If you are alone or sad on Valentine's Day or any other day, turn to Him. Pour out your heart to Him, give it all to Him. Draw near to Him and let His perfect love wash over and comfort you.

## Meditate and Study

Grab your notebook and Bible and get ready to explore! Before you start, ask God to open your eyes and heart to His truth.

### Lesson 3-1

1. What did you learn or apply from the last lesson?  
If you didn't do the lesson, you can print it at  
<http://www.hopeinthelord.org/DownloadBibleStudy.html>

Read Mark 12:28-34 twice.

- 1a. What did Jesus say was the most important commandment?
- 1b. What does this commandment mean to you?
- 1c. Are you obeying this commandment?
- 1d. What can you do today to obey this commandment?
- 1e. What can you do regularly to obey this commandment?
2. What is the second most important commandment?
- 3a. Are any of God's commandments greater than these?
- 3b. Why do you think these are the greatest/most important commandments?
4. What did Jesus say about the man who believed this (v. 34)?

Following Christ isn't about obeying a lot of rules and living by long lists of do's and don'ts. The Jewish teacher who asked Jesus about the greatest commandment would have been well-versed in the 600+ laws religious people of the day followed.

Jesus gave us just two laws, both commanding love. Being a follower of Christ isn't about knowing how to look good on the outside or say the right things, it's about the attitudes of our heart. When our heart is filled with love for the Lord we love others because Christ loved them.

Think about your friends' kids. You love them, not because they are great and wonderful and better than other kids, but because you love their parents. Everyone on the planet is a child of God. So when we love the Lord with all we are, we love others too. And when this love for others guides us and we desire to please the Lord, we obey all God's commands – not as a check-list of do's and don'ts, but from the heart.

### **Lesson 3-2**

1. What did you learn or apply from the last lesson?

2. In your own words, define love.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 twice.

3a. List the four things love is (v. 4-5).

3b. List the four things love isn't (v. 4-5)

4. What is the relationship between love and evil? Love and truth? (v. 6)

5. What does love always do (v.7)?

6. What does love never do (v. 8)?

7. How does is this description of love similar to yours? How is it different?

8. What changes do you need to make in your choices for the actions of your love to match the actions given in this passage?

Read 1 John 4:7-12 twice.

9. In your own words, what do v. 7-8 say?

10a. How did God show His love to us (v. 9-10)?

10b. Write a prayer of praise and thanks telling God what this gift of love means to you.

11. What does v. 11 say we should do? Why?

12. Meditate on v. 12. What thoughts are in your heart as you focus on this?

13. Based on what you learned today, is love a feeling, an emotion or an action? Why?

Ladies, I want you to leave today with your thoughts focused on God's Word.

God bless you,  
Jennifer