

Adult Bible Teacher

Large-Print Edition

March, April, May 2017

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SPRING QUARTER

For Teachers of Adults Ages 26 & Up

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March, April, May 2017

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Daily Bible Readings for Home Study and Worship

(Readings are for the week previous to the lesson topics.)

1. March 5. The Source of All Love

M.—Jesus Gave His Life for Us. I John 3:11-17.
T.—Loved by the Father and the Son. John 14:18-24.
W.—Love in Deed and in Truth. I John 3:18-24.
T.—Test the Spirits. I John 4:1-6.
F.—Loving God and the Brethren. I John 4:20—5:5.
S.—Thankful for God's Love. Ps. 40:1-10.
S.—Being Made Perfect in Love. I John 4:7-19.

2. March 12. God's Overflowing Love

M.—God's Mercy on Sinners. Luke 18:9-14.
T.—Justified by Faith. Rom. 3:21-31.
W.—Grace Abounding to Many. Rom. 5:12-17.
T.—Raised with Christ. I Cor. 15:12-25.
F.—Know the Love of Christ. Eph. 3:14-21.
S.—Walk Worthy of Your Calling. Eph. 4:1-6.
S.—The Riches of His Grace. Eph. 2:1-10.

3. March 19. Manifesting God's Love

M.—The Lord's Vine: His People. Ps. 80:8-19.
T.—Loving as Jesus Loved. John 13:31-35.
W.—Be Holy as God Is Holy. I Pet. 1:13-21.
T.—Walking in Truth and Love. II John 1:4-11.
F.—Becoming One in Christ. Eph. 2:11-21.
S.—Love Shown in Obedience. John 14:8-15.
S.—Bearing Fruit in Love. John 15:1-17.

4. March 26. God's Merciful Love

M.—The Prophesied Day of the Lord. Joel 2:1-11.
T.—Call for Repentance. Joel 2:15-17.
W.—Promised Restoration. Joel 2:20-27.
T.—Salvation and the Day of the Lord. Acts 2:14-21.
F.—Not Willing That Any Should Perish. II Pet. 3:1-10.
S.—Judgment and Cleansing. Joel 3:1-3, 18-21.
S.—Our Gracious and Merciful God. Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32.

5. April 2. The Lord Is My Shepherd

M.—Seeking a Resting Place. Num. 10:29-36.
T.—God the True Shepherd. Ezek. 34:11-16.
W.—Bringing His People Home Again. Jer. 23:1-8.
T.—The Good Shepherd's Sacrifice. John 10:11-18.
F.—Shepherds in God's Household. Heb. 13:17, 20-21.
S.—Tending the Flock of God. I Pet. 5:1-11.
S.—The Perfect Shepherd. Ps. 23:1-6.

6. April 9. God's Saving Love in Christ

M.—Christ Sent to Save. John 3:17-21.
T.—Love God, Not the World. I John 2:15-17.
W.—The Plea of Nicodemus. John 7:45-52.
T.—The Serpent in the Wilderness. Num. 21:4-9.
F.—The Faith of Nicodemus. John 19:38-42.
S.—The Love of God Our Saviour. Titus 3:1-7.
S.—God So Loved the World. John 3:1-16.

7. April 16. God's Love Triumphant (Easter)

M.—Jesus Pierced on the Cross. John 19:31-37.
T.—Eternal Life Is in the Son. I John 5:6-12.
W.—Not One Bone Is Broken. Ps. 34:15-20.

T.—Casting Lots for Jesus' Robe. John 19:23-25.
F.—It Is Finished. John 19:26-30.
S.—The Tomb Found Empty. Luke 24:1-12.
S.—Victory over Death. John 20:1-10; I Pet. 1:3-5, 8-9.

8. April 23. God's Reconciling Love

M.—Preaching the Gospel of Christ. Rom. 1:1-15.
T.—Peace with God Through Christ. Rom. 5:1-5.
W.—Grace Abounding to Eternal Life. Rom. 5:18-21.
T.—Our Hope of Future Glory. Rom. 8:18-25.
F.—God's Purpose and Calling. Rom. 8:26-30.
S.—Suffering for the Gospel. II Cor. 11:21-27.
S.—God's Inescapable Love. Rom. 5:6-11; 8:31-39.

9. April 30. The Good Shepherd's Love

M.—Blessed Are Those Who Understand. Matt. 13:10-17.
T.—Israel's Faithless Shepherds. Ezek. 34:1-10.
W.—Seeking the Lost Sheep. Matt. 18:1-5, 10-14.
T.—The Responsibility of Shepherds. Acts 20:25-28.
F.—Feed My Sheep. John 21:15-19.
S.—The Blind See. John 9:35-41.
S.—Jesus the Good Shepherd. John 10:1-15.

10. May 7. God's Disciplinary Love

M.—No Escaping God's Presence. Ps. 139:1-12.
T.—The Lord's Voice in the Storm. Ps. 29:1-9.
W.—Compassion After Rejection. Isa. 54:1-10.
T.—God's Wrath Against Nineveh. Nah. 1:1-8.
F.—Hope amid Severe Affliction. Lam. 3:15-26.
S.—An Attempt to Flee from God. Jonah 1:1-6.
S.—Disciplined but Kept Safe. Jonah 1:7-17.

11. May 14. God's Protective Love

M.—Thanks for Deliverance from Death. Ps. 116:1-14.
T.—Deadly Peril in the World. Job 41:1-11.
W.—Healing After the Punishing Blow. Isa. 19:19-22.
T.—Prayer for Deliverance. Ps. 69:13-18.
F.—A Greater than Jonah Is Here. Luke 11:29-32.
S.—I Am with You Always. Matt. 28:16-20.
S.—Jonah's Song of Thanksgiving. Jonah 2:1-10.

12. May 21. God's Love for the Lost

M.—Repent and Live! Ezek. 18:26-32.
T.—Return to the Lord. Zech. 1:1-6.
W.—Joy over One Who Repents. Luke 15:8-10.
T.—Warnings to the Unrepentant. Matt. 11:20-24.
F.—Proclaiming Repentance and Faith. Acts 20:18-24.
S.—Repentance unto Life for Gentiles. Acts 11:11-18.
S.—Repentance of the Ninevites. Jonah 3:1-10.

13. May 28. God's All-Embracing Love

M.—The Merciful and Gracious God. Exod. 34:4-9.
T.—The Lord Who Forgives. Num. 14:10-11, 17-20.
W.—A God Ready to Pardon. Neh. 9:16-21.
T.—Mercy as High as the Heavens. Ps. 103:1-14.
F.—Mercy to All Who Call on Him. Ps. 86:1-7.
S.—Mercy That Delivers from Hell. Ps. 86:8-13.
S.—God's Compassion on His World. Jonah 4:1-11.

Scripture Lesson Text

I JOHN 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spir'it.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Je'sus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

NOTES

The Source of All Love

Lesson: I John 4:7-19

Read: I John 4:7-19

TIME: about A.D. 90-95

PLACE: probably from Ephesus

GOLDEN TEXT—"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:11).

Preparing to Teach the Lesson

TODAY'S AIM

Facts: to get a clearer picture of the nature of God's unfathomable love.

Principle: to recognize that the Triune God is the source of all love.

Application: to establish the habit of thanking God for His great love for us.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

We cannot generate love on our own, for we are inherently sinful. Any ability to love comes from God, for He is love—and the source of all love, as we will see in I John 4.

DEVELOPING THE LESSON

1. The source of all love (I John 4:7-8). In these verses John made two profound statements about love: "Love is of God" and "God is love." The first statement affirms that God is the source of all love. Love does not exist apart from Him.

The second statement tells us why God is the source of all love—because God is love. He does not just display love; He *is* love! Love is an inherent part of His being. Certainly God's justice is also an essential part of His being, but His love works with His justice to en-

able Him to act lovingly toward us as sinful people.

2. The results of God's love (I John 4:9-19). After declaring that God is the source of all love, John then expanded on the results of His love.

God's love was not something He simply felt within Himself. His love moved Him to act, sending "his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (I John 4:9).

God's love prompts us to action as well. "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:11). Our natural tendency is to seek our own best interests at the expense of other people. Because of God's love, we can and should love others—not just our fellow believers but all people. We are to love even our enemies (Matt. 5:44)!

God's love is also closely related to the assurance of our salvation, as seen in the statements "God dwelleth in us" (I John 4:12) and "We dwell in him" (vs. 13). Both of these statements relate to the truth that at the point of salvation God comes to dwell within us and we then dwell, or abide, in Him. Our love for one another, prompted by God's love, is an indication that we are born