



WEEK 2

Love

Advent

WEEKLY CANDLE
LIGHTING DEVOTIONAL

Why did Jesus leave heaven, and come to the earth? If we had to narrow it down to a one word answer, the answer would be: LOVE.

There is a love so great that our savior would leave the glory of heaven and come to earth to be with us. Immanuel, God with us. It is because of God's love that He chose to be with us, and ultimately give His life as a sacrifice for ours. That is a kind of love that is difficult to comprehend.

He came because of His love for us. We could say that's great and just skip over it. However, the ridiculousness of God's love for us that brought him from heaven to earth 2000 years ago is that is love given to us we could never earn. God passionately loves us not because we deserve it, but because He created us and desires us. In our mistakes, messes, and misgivings, Jesus still loves us!

Love isn't a feeling—love is more. He loved us so we can love others too. In 1 Corinthians we get the best definition of what this love is like. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 NIV “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.”

During Advent, we remember God's gift of Jesus to the world. We know that God is love and His love for all people is the reason for this gift. He came to the world that we would know Him, and that His love would shine through each and every one of us to the people around us. He loves us, that we might love each other in the same way.

Light two Purple Candles

We light this second candle today to remind us that Jesus came to earth to show us and tell us of God's love.

Scripture Reading

- John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- John 13:34–35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
- Matthew 22:36–40 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for your great and powerful love for us. In your love, you gave us your son that we might know you and receive the gift of your salvation and freedom, both now and for eternity. Today as we light this second candle, we ask you to fill our hearts with your love, and as you do, please help us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Discussion

- How has God shown us love?
- How do we love others today?
- How do we help others know God's love?