

Loving Supremely

Love: Everything God is—lived out by Jesus, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, experienced personally, and manifested through us to a lonely and hurting world.

“and to brotherly kindness **love**” (2 Peter 1:7).

“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16).

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5).

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. . . . And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13).

“Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another—this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow. This love is not an impulse, but a divine principle, a permanent power. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. Only in the heart where Jesus reigns is it found. ‘We love Him, because He first loved us.’ In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the ruling principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 551).

Intercession Focus: Renewed Love, Especially for the Lost

Pray for God’s people to experience renewed love in the following areas:

- For God and His Word
- For fellow church members—our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Among family members

Pray for the lost, specifically:

- All those around the world who have never heard of Jesus
- Those who have heard of Jesus but have never met Him personally
- The backslidden—those who once knew Jesus but wandered away

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While I work on the plan of **addition** . . . God is working on the plan of **multiplication**!

Dear Lord, during the next 24 hours, I feel You calling me to add this grace to my life: _____

In Your strength and by Your power, I choose to: _____

These are the ways I saw God multiply His grace to me today:

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Suggested Plan

Introduction—5 Minutes:

- Introduce the day's prayer topic: true love, especially for those who don't know God.
- Remind people of general guidelines for united prayer as explained in United Prayer Guidelines (available on www.tendaysofprayer.org).
- Distribute five intercession cards to each person for use during supplication time.

United Prayer Time

Praise—10 Minutes:

- Praise God for loving us more than we can possibly imagine or understand. Each of the characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13 tells something about God. Praise God for each of His loving attributes.
- Encourage people to share their answers to prayer as praises to God.

Confession—5 Minutes:

- Confess our lack of love for God, for each other, and for the lost. Allow two or three minutes for silent confession, then open it up for public confession as appropriate.

Supplication—25 Minutes:

- Pray for God to help every Seventh-day Adventist experience God's love personally.
- Pray that we will base every aspect of our lives on love and that our lives will demonstrate God's love to everyone around us.
- Pray for true love for lost people and a passion for sharing God's love.
- Plead for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bring revival and reformation in our lives and give us a renewed vision of our responsibility to share God's love.
- Intercede for the lost in your community. Invite people to pray for God to reveal specific individuals who need God's love and our love right now.
- Have people pray over the intercession cards in small groups. Remind them to pray/claim scriptures for the individuals.

Journal Page Time—5 Minutes:

- Give people time to reflect on how God has multiplied His love and grace to them. They may also write down their loving response to Him.

Praise—10 Minutes:

- Thank God for loving us and putting His love in our hearts through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Especially thank Him for giving us love for the lost.
- Allow time for praising God for the many answers to prayer He is giving and has already given during the Ten Days of Prayer.

Suggested Songs to Use: "I Love You, Lord"; "Open Our Eyes, Lord"; "Jesus Loves Me"; "For God So Loved the World"; "Into My Heart"; "I Love to Tell the Story" (SDA Hymnal #457); "I Will Sing of Jesus' Love" (SDA Hymnal #183); "Tell Me the Old, Old Story" (SDA Hymnal #196).