

FOR GOOD
WEEK ONE

Bible Reading

1 John 3:16-18
"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

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."

Luke 15:20
"So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Observation questions

1. In 1 John 3:16–18, how does John move from Jesus' sacrifice to an everyday situation involving possessions and someone in need? What responses does he contrast?
2. How are John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 connected? What does each reveal about the direction God's love takes?
3. What examples show how a person can close their heart to someone in need without saying anything harsh?

4. In Luke 15:20, what does the father do when he sees his returning son, and how does compassion shape his response?

Interpretation questions

1. Why does John place the example of someone withholding material help immediately after describing Jesus' sacrifice? What does that suggest about what sacrificial love looks like in ordinary life?
2. How can assuming why someone is struggling become a way of withholding compassion? How does 1 John 3:17 challenge that response?
3. How does the father's welcome in Luke 15:20 help explain the difference between loving someone who has sinned and approving of their sin? What might that distinction look like in a strained relationship?
4. Why is Jesus' sacrifice a more dependable measure of God's love than a person's financial situation or health? How might that change the way a believer understands hardship?

Application questions

1. If someone looked at your calendar and spending over the past month, what would they think you are most committed to? Where would they see care for people beyond the church's walls?
2. When have you caught yourself assuming why someone was struggling? Without naming that person, what could help you replace that assumption with curiosity and compassion?
3. Is there someone you have pulled away from because of their choices or mistakes? What might one loving step toward them look like while still being honest about what is harmful?
4. When have difficult circumstances made it hard for you to believe God loves you? What could help you hold on to the meaning of the cross without pretending those difficulties do not hurt?
5. Think of a need you already know about. What time, money, skill, or possession could you offer this week, and what would you need to rearrange to make that possible?
6. The For Good offering supports people beyond the church's walls, and gifts do not have to be equal. What might meaningful participation look like for you in your current circumstances? What would help you approach that decision freely and thoughtfully?