



## DAY 11

### GOD LOVES YOU UNCONDITIONALLY

*"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8)*

Many of us may not really know what unconditional love is because we are used to receiving and giving conditional love - a love that is given when we are receiving something of equal or greater value in return. So for example:

- You will only share your toy after your friend shares his/hers with you
- Feel like you need to be scoring top marks in school for mom and dad to care for you?
- Feel like you need to win a gold medal in that competition so that your teachers and teammate appreciate and treat you nice?

But in the Bible, the Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian Church: "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God" (Eph 3:18-19 NLT).

God's love is unconditional and it means that we do not need to work hard for God to love us because He already loves us when we're still not perfect. Nothing we do or say will make God love us more, or less. His love is unconditional!

In fact, He loved us enough to die for us. So, to practice and live out God's unconditional love, can you think of someone that you have a hard time loving? Can you imagine Jesus loving that person? Ask God how you can show care to him/her, so that he/she may know what it means to be loved unconditionally. One day, that person may open his/her heart to accept Jesus.

#### **PRAYER:**

DEAR JESUS, I THANK YOU THAT YOU LOVE ME THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER. TODAY, I WANT TO UNDERSTAND YOUR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR ME EVEN MORE. PLEASE HELP ME TO BELIEVE AND REMEMBER THAT YOU LOVE ME SIMPLY FOR WHO I AM AND NOT HOW WELL I DO IN SCHOOL OR AT HOME. I ALSO PRAY THAT YOU HELP ME TO LOVE \_\_\_\_\_ SO THAT HE/SHE WILL BE ABLE TO KNOW YOU, JESUS.



## DAY 12

### WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN

*See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)*

You are a child of God. Your Heavenly Daddy is your Father and He loves you. He loves you just as you are – the one and only special you! He loves listening to you sing, dance, play and even watch you when you are sleeping. He cares about all that you care about and has nothing but your best interest at heart. His love for you lasts forever and He will never ever leave you. Not now, not forever.

Sometimes, you may still feel worried and scared but remind yourself that your Heavenly Daddy is watching over you and He is in control of everything. You are the apple of His eye! He has also promised that all things will work together for your good (Rom 8:28) so there is nothing to fear or worry about. In the Bible, the Apostle John also says, “perfect love casts out all fears” (1 John 4:18).

So, imagine your Heavenly Daddy's giving you a big hug right now and He wants you to give Him all your worries. Take this time to draw close to Him and try to think of other children that may not know that there is a Heavenly Daddy that loves them so much. You can start by writing some of their names in your journal and praying for them. You can also tell them about your Heavenly Daddy in writing or when you see them face-to-face again so that they can get to know Him.

#### **PRAYER:**

DEAR HEAVENLY DADDY, I WANT TO KNOW YOU MORE AND HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME. HELP ME TO REST IN YOUR LOVE AND EMBRACE, DADDY. TEACH ME WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE CLOSE TO YOU SO THAT I WILL NOT FEAR OR WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING. MAY I ALSO REMEMBER MY FRIENDS \_\_\_\_\_, MAY THEY GET TO EXPERIENCE YOUR LOVE FOR THEM TOO, DADDY. THERE ARE ALSO SOME CHILDREN THAT MAY THINK THAT THEIR HEAVENLY DADDY DO NOT LIKE THEM VERY MUCH BECAUSE THEIR OWN DAD HAS HURT THEM. SO DADDY, GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY AND COURAGE TO TELL THEM THAT YOU LOVE THEM VERY MUCH.



# DAY 13

## TRUE LOVE DISCIPLINES

*My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights. (Proverb 3:11-12)*

I believe most of you know have had an incident where your parents were telling you not to do something but you disobeyed, so they got really angry and punished you. At that instance, you may not feel that lovey dovey or warm feeling so think that your parents don't love you anymore. However, did you know that sometimes, your parents have to raise their voices to stop you from danger? They may need to take stronger steps of discipline such as scolding or punishing you so that you will remember not repeat that mistake again. You need to know that you mom or dad is doing this from a heart of love.

In the same way, our Heavenly Daddy also disciplines and corrects us. He does not want us to walk down the path of sin or make bad decisions that will cause us to destroy His wonderful plans for us. Proverbs 3:11-12 goes on to say, "My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights." Very often our Heavenly Daddy uses our parents to discipline us and teach us to be more like Jesus. So, don't be upset with our parents but choose to be humble and learn from it. Heb 12:11 also states that "No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."

### PRAYER:

HEAVENLY DADDY, I BELIEVE THAT YOU LOVE ME ALL THE TIME. SO WHEN MOM OR DAD DISCIPLINES ME, HELP ME TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE CORRECTING ME OUT OF LOVE. I WANT TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS EVERYDAY.



## DAY 14

### GOD'S HOLINESS COMPELS US TO LOVE

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come." (Revelation 4:8)*

The Bible has always taught us that God is a holy God. What do you understand by holy?

So far, we know that God is love – He is patient, forgiving and loves us unconditionally. Today, we want to focus on this – God is holy. When we say that God is holy, it means that He hates sin and all that is evil and false. So, because we still sin and do bad things over and over again, God had to send Jesus to die on the cross because Jesus was the only man that was without sin on the earth. This was to fulfill the requirement of the Holy God.

Therefore, because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross we can now call God our Heavenly Daddy and talk to Him so freely. However, we still need to have a holy fear for our Heavenly Daddy because in Proverb 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." This way we are able to know what is good and right and learn to turn away from doing wrong things. So, a proper fear and respect for God will cause us to love God with our actions and not just words.

So, have a think if there is anyone you need to say sorry to or things you have taken that do not belong to you. Take this opportunity to apologize and also return the things that you have taken because we need to learn to be holy, just like Jesus.

#### **PRAYER:**

LORD, I WANT TO ASK FOR YOU TO FORGIVE ME WHEN I HAVE DONE THINGS THAT IS WRONG. TODAY, I ASK THAT YOU TEACH ME WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE A HOLY GOD AND ALSO LIVE A HOLY LIFE.



## DAY 15

### GOD DESIRES ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED

*"This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth". (1 Tim 2:3-4)*

Have you heard of the story - the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32? The story starts with a father who had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, "Father, could you give me my inheritance?" (Inheritance is money the father would give his children after he had died.). So the father thought about it and agreed.

Very soon after the younger son received the money, he left home and spent all his money. At the ending of this story, we know that when the younger son returns home begging for a job as a servant, he expected the father to be angry with him but instead, his father runs out to meet him, puts the best robe on him, a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. He even put on a big celebration because he was so happy that his younger son has finally come home! He lovingly accepts his son and forgives him.

The father in the story is just like God as this is how God would react to his lost children. He doesn't give up on us when we do things that are wrong, and he will always forgive us if we've truly changed and repent for what we've done. So, can we have a heart for those who are lost? Can we look out for opportunities to tell others about this story and that they have a Heavenly Daddy that is always waiting for them to come home?

#### **PRAYER:**

HEAVENLY DADDY, THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS HAVING YOUR ARMS WIDE OPEN FOR ME. I PRAY THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME THE PASSION AND BOLDNESS TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM.



## DAY 16

### LOVE BREAKS DOWN DIVIDING WALLS

*"For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us" (Eph 2:14)*

Have you noticed how there are different people in your classroom or even when you go for a meal at a restaurant? In some places, being different from another person is not accepted. It can be the colour of your skin, what you do, if you are male or female or even where you live. Sometimes it gets really bad and people get hurt because they are different.

In the bible the Apostle Paul mentioned that Jesus had broken down the things that have divided us. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, died on the cross and He has made it possible for us to be together. Now as Christians we can all be together despite how we look, what we eat or where we come from. At ICC we hold this as one of our key values to break what separates us as a multicultural church. What can you do practically to help break these walls where you are at?

Tomorrow in Brisbane we will be coming together to pray with different groups of people at the Battlecry. You too can be part of that, join with your family and pray for our city, state, country, and the nations!

#### **PRAYER:**

JESUS, I ASK FOR YOUR GRACE AND LOVE TO FILL MY HEART SO THAT I CAN BE A WALL BREAKER AND PEACEMAKER IN MY CHURCH, MY COMMUNITY AND MY CITY.



## DAY 17

### LOVE YOUR CITY THROUGH PRAYER

*"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

Have you heard of the Today we focus on our city, to pray for it. In the verse above we are shown to pray for the city that we are in. Jesus heart is for the people, His people, even if they rejected Him. Even today there are people who rejects Jesus, but His heart is for them, everyone of them. How about you? If you really love Jesus, what moves His heart should also move our hearts.

God promises to hear our prayers when we as Christians, humble ourselves and pray! Yes that's you and me! Not just the important people in the city or the adults or just your parents. God calls us to humble ourselves, to unite with other Christians - because we have something in common, our faith in Jesus. And then when we pray together and ask Jesus to forgive the sins in our city, he will bring restoration and hope to our city.

Today, let us be united together as one in the Battlecry prayer, and pray for revival and restoration for our city.

#### **PRAYER:**

JESUS, I ASK THAT YOU WILL FILL ME WITH COMPASSION FOR MY CITY. EVEN AS WE STAND TOGETHER WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE CITY, LORD JESUS, WE KNOW YOU WILL HEAR OUR PRAYERS AND BRING REVIVAL AND RESTORATION TO BRISBANE.





## DAY 18

### GOD DESIRES ALL PEOPLE TO BE SAVED

*"This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." (1 Tim 2:3-4)*

Do you think that there are people who don't deserve to be saved? What about the meanest of mean people? Do you think God would give them an opportunity to be saved? The answer is YES!

God's desire is that all will be saved and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. And that means everyone. The never-ending love of God wants everyone to be saved.

We see this from the parable of the prodigal son. Here you have a young man who left his home spent all the money his father gave him, and lived a life doing whatever he wanted and eventually lost everything and even had to live with the pigs. But when he decides to go back home, his father didn't send him away, but instead his father welcomed him and had a celebration for his son that was lost, but now is found.

God's heart is like that. No matter how bad someone is, what they have done, God loves them and wants them to be saved. No one is excluded. Think of the worst ever person you can. God still loves them and wants them saved.

If that is God's heart, how about yours? Do you have a heart that longs to share to the people that don't know God? Share of His amazing love and grace. Today you can do something to share God's love to someone that does not know Him.

#### **PRAYER:**

JESUS, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD YOUR HEART FOR THE PEOPLE THAT DON'T KNOW YOU. GIVE ME YOUR HEART FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW YOU, AND PROVIDE ME OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH THEM.





# DAY 19

## LOVE YOUR SCHOOL

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." (1 Cor 16:14)*

### Definition of alert

Noun

uh-lurt | \ ə-'lərt \

1. a state of careful watching and readiness especially for danger or opportunity

When you do everything in love, it also means that you are also **alert** to the needs of others, no matter if they are a friend or someone we do not like, because love gives us the eyes to see. We see this in the story of the Good Samaritan, he first saw the man that was injured and had pity for him. It starts from being **alert**!

Love also stands firm. It does not change easily. Love is not based on our mood, and love is a choice that we make in our every attitude, affection and action.

The final challenge is to do everything in love. What if we choose to prefer others above ourselves in everything—every thought, every word we say, every action and interaction?

Sometimes some of us think that we only love on Sunday, or at church or at home, but the truth is we love everywhere. Even at school! See, God has given each of us special abilities and gifts. Some of us are better at math, or humanities, or art, or even sports. Where you are you can serve Jesus. Be **alert** and use what God has given you and where He has placed you as an opportunity to share His love. How about your classroom, on the field or even on the playground at school?

God will not ask us to do anything that is not possible. But the choice is ours to share His love where He places us.

#### PRAYER:

JESUS, I THANK YOU THAT YOU LOVE ME COMPLETELY AT ALL TIMES. I THANK YOU THAT YOU MODEL FOR ME WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE IN EVERYTHING YOU DO. I TAKE THIS WORD AS A PROMISE THAT IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO LIVE IN LOVE. GIVE ME THE ALERTNESS AND GRACE TO WALK IN LOVE EACH DAY.



## DAY 20

### LOVE IS THE GREATEST THING

*“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:36-40)*

Mount Everest is known as earth’s highest mountain. With a height of over 29,000 feet, nothing is higher than that. The thought of climbing to the top of it has been the dream of mountaineers for decades. It was not until 1953 that Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay made the first official climb where other had died trying before that.

Just like Mount Everest, as Christians we have a spiritual mountain too. The highest thing we want to do is to love God and love others with all that we have.

What Jesus was saying in the verse above was that, if we miss this, we’ve missed everything. As followers of Jesus, love for God and love for others is the highest thing we need to desire. What we need to know is that we don’t have to make this spiritual climb by our own strength. We will never be able to reach it even if we try. It is all with the help of Jesus as our Saviour can we do it.

#### **PRAYER:**

JESUS, I THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT CLEAR TO ME THAT LOVE FOR YOU AND LOVE FOR OTHERS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. JESUS, I KNOW I CANNOT DO IT IN MY OWN STRENGTH. TODAY I ASK TO LIVE THIS LIFE OF LOVE THROUGH YOU FOR YOUR GLORY. AMEN.