
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Love/Hate

WEEK 1

LET LOVE BE WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT.

Dear friends, since
**God so loved us, we
also ought to love one
another.**

1 JOHN 4:11, NIV

DAY 1

When was the last time you hated on someone? Maybe you made fun of their outdated outfit or busted looking shoes? Or maybe you judged them based on the car they drove or the neighborhood they lived in? We've all done it before, haven't we?

But when we think about this tendency to hate on people in light of the call of this verse—to love one another as God loves us—there's a tension. Because God loves each of us unconditionally. He doesn't care where we come from, what clothes we wear or how nice our cars are. He simply loves us for who we are. And He calls us to extend that same love to others. To drop the hate and instead, choose love. **So, who in your life are you struggling to stop hating on right now? Ask God to help you see that person with His unconditional love this week.**

Hatred stirs up
conflict, but love
**covers over
all wrongs.**

PROVERBS 10:12, NIV

DAY 2

Fact: Conflict is inevitable. In friendships or relationships with other people, at some point, you're going to find yourself at odds with one another. The good news is, conflicts don't have to be the end of the story. When we respond to conflict with hatred or harshness, it will only make matters worse.

When we choose to lead with love, we're taking steps to not only squashing the conflict, but righting the wrongs and building a better relationship going forward. And how do you lead with love? By owning your part in the conflict. Seeking forgiveness. And being generous in the way you think about the other person. **Who in your life do you find yourself in conflict with right now? Go to them and see what you can do to resolve it!** Watch how this simple shift of choosing love makes a big difference in making peace in your relationship.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

JOHN 15:13, NIV

DAY 3

The greatest expression of love ever known was Jesus willingly giving up His life for us. It was the biggest sacrifice and a reminder that love isn't easy. Real love requires something of us. It costs us something. Maybe it's time, or money, or your interests for the sake of someone else's. Maybe it's a change in your opinion or schedule.

Whatever it may be, as Jesus modeled for us when He willingly died to demonstrate how BIG God's love is for us, real love often requires us to give up or set aside something of our own for the sake of someone else. It isn't always easy, but every time we make sacrifices in the name of love, we can remember the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us and let that motivate us to keep moving in the direction of love. **This week, find a way to love a friend in your life.** Whatever it takes, show them that you care!

Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 JOHN 3:18B, NIV

DAY 4

When was the last time you told someone you loved them? Sometimes the words come more easily than others. But they carry a lot of weight, don't they? Saying, "I love you," is so much more than just words. It's backed up by action. Jesus didn't just say, "I love you;" He showed us His love with His life in how He treated people and ultimately how He died.

We never have to question how God feels about us because He backed up His claims with action. And He calls us to love others in the same way. **So the next time you tell someone you love them, think about what that means. Go beyond just the words, and find a way to show them with your actions.**

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 PETER 1:22, NIV

DAY 5

When you were really young, you probably didn't swim in the deep end of the pool on your own. Why? Because it was scary. You couldn't touch the bottom, and if you didn't know how to swim well enough to stay afloat on your own, that made the deep end terrifying. Love can be a lot like that.

One of Jesus' followers, Peter, said in a letter to the early Church that love needs to be sincere, deep, and from the heart. Which is exactly what God's love is like. But, trusting it can kind of like jumping in the deep end of the pool. You can't touch the bottom of it. You might even be scared to fully jump into it. But when you do, you'll find what you need to stay afloat. **Pray and ask God to help you see the places where trusting in His love is hard to do.** Ask Him to show you where He wants you to lean deeper into His love. Pray that He would help you trust Him to jump in fully with Him.