



How Deep The Father's Love For Us *Day 1: Verse 1 (partial)*

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

Scripture Reference

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him...But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

- *John 3:16-17, 21*



This week we'll focus on Easter and Jesus on the cross. For many of us, it may be a challenging week appreciating the fact that it's our **own, personal** sin that brought Jesus to the cross. But before we dive into that, it's essential we focus on our hearts on the heart of the cross. Easter is a love story...a love pursuit. It's because of God's love for us – God's love for you – that Easter exists. Easter is the culmination of His pursuit for His creation. He so loved the world that He gave His Son to gain His treasure – to gain you. He gave His Son so you might have eternal life with Him.

What does Easter mean to you? Do you see it as a love story or God pursuing you? What are some of your favorite Easter traditions? Do they grow your relationship with your Father?

Many of us may struggle with the concept that God loves us. That may stem from an inner belief that we are unworthy of His love. Think for a moment about the person you love most in this world. Maybe it's your child, your spouse, your parents – whomever. Think on a time that they disappointed you. Best guess – that disappointment didn't make you love them any less, did it? We're all sinners and yet we are capable of profound love – how much more is the Father capable of then? Even in your failure, your weaknesses, your sin – God loves you. It doesn't matter if you are worthy or not. **He loves you.**

Reflect on the time the person you loved most disappointed you. How did it make you feel? How did it shape your emotions and reactions? Ask your Heavenly Father to reveal to you how your love for that person reflects His love.



For some of us, it may be hard to fully believe that God loves us – as an individual. Not the collective world, but you as a person, an individual. God assures us throughout the Bible that He calls us by name, He knew us before we were even formed in the womb, even the hairs on our heads are numbered. These are all very personal items, requiring God to individually identify you. He knows and loves **you** – not just the world, but you specifically. Think again on the person you love most – but now spread that out to a group of people you love. Maybe your children, your family, a group of friends – whomever. Don't you love them collectively, but also individually? The heart is a finite organ and yet it has an incomprehensible ability to love beyond our imagination. How much more can our Father love us?

Reflect on the group of people you love identified above. How does your love for each individual, among the collective group, reflect God's love for you among the collective world?

God's love for us was made fully known to us through the cross – through Jesus' sacrifice. Because of Him, we live in the light. Through the Holy Spirit in us, living in the light, we are changed. Our lives become a reflection of His love. Others will know we are His. May our lives continually be a reflection of His love year-round.

Before we continue this week digging into our part in Jesus on the cross, take a final moment today to revel in God's love for you - how deep and vast it is. Praise your Heavenly Father for His love. If you need, ask Him to forgive you of any recent or old doubts. Let His love pour over you.
