

Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith

Going Deeper — Week 21: One Word for Love?

Memory Verse:

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.

John 3:16-17 NIV

Gratitude: There is no better way to remember who you are... whose you are... than to give thanks. Write down things you are thankful for this week.

This Week's Spiritual Discipline

Throughout our faith journeys we have practiced a variety of spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are simply habits or activities we exercise to help us grow in faith. Each week we will make a suggestion for you to try.

Centering Prayer

Part of building a relationship is just being together... no words, or job to get done. Just time to be ourselves with the one we love.

Centering prayer is a prayer of being. A way to pray which brings our focus on God's presence. We experienced this recently at a silent retreat and it's no easy task to shut off the noise inside our heads.

So let's practice *being* with God.

Find a quiet place and get comfortable.

Choose a sacred word as a symbol of your intention to focus on God's presence. A word or Scripture you can say from memory.

Set a timer for five minutes.

As you begin to center and focus on God, breathe deep. When your mind wanders or noisy thoughts invade simply say the sacred word to bring your focus back to being with God.

One Word for Love?

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 1</i></p> <p>The English language has one word for love. We love our children and we love pizza, but it's not the same kind of love is it? We know what kind of love we're talking about through the context, the words around the word love.</p> <p>Take a look at the definition of love in the dictionary. What words or phrases stand out to you?</p> <p>Read Psalm 136</p> <p>What actions in the Psalm does God take to show His love for us?</p> <p>What would happen if we reserved the word love only when we talk about our relationship with God or with others?</p> <p>As you go about your day be mindful of when you say the word love.</p> <p>The Greek language has four words for love: <i>storge</i>, <i>phileo</i>, <i>agape</i>, and <i>eros</i>.[*] We will take a deeper look at each one as we journey through our week.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 4</i></p> <p>The Greeks have a word for love you won't find in the Scriptures. The word is <i>eros</i>.</p> <p><i>Eros</i> is a conditional love. This love is concerned with one thing... self. If it does give, it only does in order to receive something in return. It's emotional love, erotic love, love wrapped up in what it does for one's own satisfaction.</p> <p>This is the love of our culture. It manipulates, consumes, and can leave behind destruction and heartbreak.</p> <p>Read Judges 14</p> <p>Do you see example of <i>eros</i> love in these verses? If so where?</p> <p>What was the result of this kind of love?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 2</i></p> <p>Our first word for love in the Greek language is <i>storge</i>.</p> <p>This is a love connoting natural affection between relatives. It is the cherishing of one's kindred, especially parents or children.</p> <p>Read Romans 12:9-13</p> <p>Take a look at verse 10 once more. The first half of this verse translated as <i>kindly affectionate, devoted, or love</i> comes from a Greek word with <i>storge</i> as its root.</p> <p><i>Storge</i> is the natural movement of the soul for husband, wife, child, or even pet.</p> <p>Who do you have a natural love for in your life? Why?</p> <p>God created us to love. This <i>storge</i> love comes naturally. It has its basis in our own nature. It can't be manufactured or forced by our own will. The more devotion we have to God, the more supernatural affection we have for His children.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 5</i></p> <p>Our last word for love... <i>agape</i>.</p> <p>This is the noblest of all Greek forms of love. It is a love that keeps on loving even when the one loved is unworthy, undeserving, unresponsive. It is a love without conditions of any kind.</p> <p>Read Ephesians 5:1-2</p> <p>What was Christ's greatest act of love? How was this love received by the Father?</p> <p>Read 1Peter 4:8</p> <p>What does <i>agape</i> love do?</p> <p>What conditions have you put on love lately?</p> <p>How can you let these conditions go and love others the way God loves you?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 3</i></p> <p>Today's word for love is <i>phileo</i>. It is the love we have for our friends, brothers and sisters in Christ. <i>Phileo</i> love responds to kindness and affection. It involves both giving and receiving, and when strained... it may collapse.</p> <p>Have you experienced a collapse of this type of love in your life? What caused the collapse?</p> <p>Read John 16:27</p> <p>Notice the words love in this verse? God has a natural affection for you. It involves both giving and receiving.</p> <p>In what ways do you recognize God giving love to you? How are you at receiving His love?</p> <p>You can be certain God's love for you will never, never collapse.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Want to learn more?</i></p> <p>Sister Talk: Going Deeper is an extension of Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith. You can find more on One Word for Love? by going to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SisterTalkFaith.com</p> <p>Scroll to the bottom and search Week 5/Day 1: Love to review more information on the words of love.</p> <p>Sign up to receive blog posts by e-mail and each day's lesson will come straight to your inbox.</p> <p>Follow us on Instagram for encouragement along the journey at sistertalkfaith.</p> <p>[*]The primary source, "Four Greek Words for Love" came from www.mcleanbible.org/learn-grow-your-faith/multiply-curriculum. Adapted from Precept Ministries Intl.</p>