



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** Waiting in & for Love

**Text:** Psalm 98:1-4; 1 John 4:9-11

**Theme:** Because God loved the world, he sent his Son to save the world.

**Teaching Notes:** God's love for people was often demonstrated through acts of deliverance in the Old Testament era. And the greatest and fullest demonstration of his love is the coming of Jesus to lay down his life for our salvation. Because of his sacrifice, our lives can be filled with his love here and now. Even while we wait for his second coming, we can overflow with his love toward others.

### Outline:

#### 1. Historical Perspective: Waiting for Love.

- a. During the Exodus, God proved his steadfast love.
- b. During the Exile, God promised his steadfast love.

#### 2. Redemptive Perspective: Love has come.

- a. Advent signaled the arrival, not of another prophetic word, but of a person.
- b. Advent brought the fullest demonstration of God's love: Jesus laying down his life to rescue sinners.

#### 3. Practical Perspective: Waiting in Love.

- a. We've received an example of love to follow.
- b. We've received a love that actually transforms us.

### Gospel Applications:

1. Because God's love is unconditional . . .
  - You can live free of anxiety, insecurity, and constant striving for validation.
2. Because God's love is present with you now . . .
  - You have all the resources you need to love God and others.
3. Because God's love is coming again to make all things new . . .
  - You can live honestly and optimistically, and take risks to love others.



**Questions to explore individually and with your group:**

1. Share at least one specific way you've chosen hope over despair this past week.
2. While you wait on the Lord, what are some things that cause you to doubt or question his love for you?
3. While you wait on the Lord, what are some things that help remind you of his steadfast love?
4. Out of all the ways God could've potentially demonstrated (or "manifested") the fullness of his love, what did he choose? [Support your answer from Scripture!] What's your takeaway from that?
5. What are some of the most obvious differences you observe between the love of Jesus and the way people often "love" one another? What stands out to you the most about Jesus' love?
6. When Scripture calls us to imitate the example of Christ's love, what do you think that means? Give some concrete examples of what that would look like. What needs to change in your life right now so you can better love like Jesus?
7. Think of a time in your life when someone's faithful love changed your heart, mind, or actions. What happened? What are some ways the love of Jesus not only sets an example for you, but actually changes you from the inside out?
8. How do people tend to behave in response to unconditional love? What are some healthy and God-honoring ways of responding to his unconditional love?
9. Not unlike an engagement to be married, God's love is both present and future. Love is given to his bride, the Church, right now and it is also not yet fully given. What are some healthy ways of living in light of this "already, not yet" reality?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

**Prayer Prompts:**

1. Praise Jesus for his steadfast love, which led him to lay down his life for his enemies in order to make us his bride forever.
2. Confess where you don't trust God's love, where you take advantage of God's love, and where you don't love others as God has first loved you.
3. Ask God, by his Spirit, to continue to plant seeds of love in your heart so that your life abounds with the fruit of Christlike love.