



## **Alliance Family Values – We Will Love**

January 27-28—Jim Johnson

### **Loved**

Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 3:14-19; 1 John 3:16

### **Love**

Galatians 5:13-14; Luke 6:27-36; John 13:34-35

# OUR TIME WITH GOD

For the full reading plan, go to [SPCC.TV/Church Study & Resources](http://SPCC.TV/Church Study & Resources)

**As a reminder, here's what you read last week**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 18-19	PSALM 15
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 20	PSALM 16
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 21-22	PSALM 17
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 23-24	PSALM 18
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 25	PSALM 19
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 26	PSALM 20
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	JEREMIAH 27-28	PSALM 21

## 3 QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE EACH DAY:

1. **Observe:** What is the passage saying?
2. What does the passage tell you about God or about yourself?
3. **Hear and Respond:** What is Jesus reminding you of about Himself or His promises to you? How is He inviting you to respond to His voice today?

## REFLECTING ON YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about the times you spent hearing and responding to Jesus this week. As you journaled your conversations with Him, what is one thing you felt Him speaking to you about?

**SHARING WITH YOUR GROUP:**

2. Life Group leader, ask one or two people in your group to share their answer to question number one.

**SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

3. Was there something that caught your attention in Jim's message this week? Do you have any questions?

*Consider 2 Thessalonians 3:5: "May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ." "Direct their hearts"...this is a remarkable phrase! The heart has directions. It moves toward one thing or another...even though we are Christians, this movement from where we are into the love of God is needed. Otherwise Paul would not pray it. We have all tasted of God's love for us and have been drawn into all that God is for us in Christ. But our hearts are not always steadfast. They drift, and they waver. This is why we need revival. And this is what revival is. Revival is not first the conversion of the lost. Revival is first the answer to Paul's prayer. When the Lord takes hold of the hearts of his people and directs them into the love of God, they experience the outpouring of the love of God through the Holy Spirit. – John Piper*

## MY PERSPECTIVE:

4. Read through the above quote by John Piper. Is there an area where your heart tends to wander away from confidence in God's love for you? Describe.

## DIGGING DEEPER:

*No matter how much we know of the love of Christ, how fully we enter into his love for us, there is always more to know and experience. And the implication, in light of the following words, is that we cannot be as spiritually mature as we should be unless we are empowered by God to 'grasp the limitless dimensions of the love of Christ'. – Peter O'Brien, Pillar NT Commentary, Eph. 3:14-19*

5. Prayerfully read through Romans 8. As you do, write down how this chapter answers the following questions:

Why does God love you?

In what ways does God demonstrate His love for you?

Does God's love for you ever fluctuate? If so, why? If not, why not?

How long will God's love for you last?

**LOOKING DEEPER:**

*Ephesians 3:14-19 No passage in the Bible has filled me with longings in prayer as often as this one... Consider what Paul is asking for. He is asking that we be filled to the fullness of God. How does it come? It comes through an experiential knowing of the love of Christ – “to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.” And how does that experiential knowing of the love of Christ come? In verse 17, Paul asks that they be “rooted and grounded in love” so that they “may be able to comprehend” this incomprehensible love. Well, how does that rooting and grounding in love happen? Paul prays for it to happen (in verses 16-17) by the strengthening of the Spirit in the inner man so that Christ dwells (manifestly) in the heart by faith... Is it not clear that the experience varies from time to time and from person to person? Otherwise Paul would not pray for it as often as he does. And is it not clear then how we should seek the fullness of this experience as people? First, we do not empty our heads, but fill them with the truth of Christ and the demonstration of his love for us when he came and lived and died and rose. Second, we pray for it. Really pray for it! These are the two things Paul did again and again. He wrote to his people to direct their minds to the truth of God in Christ. And he prayed that the Holy Spirit would give them eyes to see the glory of what he was writing about. This is my call to us. Read the demonstrations of the love of God in Christ. Think of them just that way. And pray with all your heart that “the eyes of your heart would be enlightened.” When the eyes of our hearts are opened to the greatness of God’s love, the love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Seek this in its fullness with all your might.*

- John Piper

6. Read the following verses: Ephesians 3:14-19; 1 John 4:16-19. From these two passages, describe how your ability to love others well is linked to your personal security in God’s love.

