

Week 1: Why study love and who wrote the book on it?

In Week 1, you will begin getting to know the Principal of the School of Love—God—in a whole new way. This will include an introduction to the three dimensions of his love: justice, truth, and grace.

Each day, read the listed pages from *The 3 Colors of Love*, study the Scripture verse, think about the reflection question and note down your thoughts and feelings ready to share at your weekly class meeting.

Day 1

The hunger for love (pages 11-13)

Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. —John 4:13-14

When in your life have you felt most loved? When in your life have you felt least loved?

Day 2

The love deficiencies in our churches (pages 14-15)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. —John 13:34-35

When have you seen a lack of love shown by a church?

Day 3

Misconceptions of love (pages 16-17)

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. —Matthew 5:44-48

What misconceptions about love do you see in the world around you?

Day 4

God is love (pages 18-19)

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. —1 John 4:8

What are the five most important descriptive words or phrases that come to your mind when you think about God? What might that say about your image of God's love?



If you are having difficulties fitting in the daily readings around the rest of your activities, think seriously about when the best time would be for you and what you might be able to remove from your daily routine to give you the necessary time. Diligently try different options until you find something that works.

Day 5

Three dimensions of God's love (pages 20-22)

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is true in all he does. The Lord loves justice; the earth is full of his unfailing grace. —Psalm 33:4-5

Your grace, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your truth to the skies. Your justice is like the mighty mountains; like the great deep. —Psalm 36:5-6

I do not hide your justice in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your grace and your truth from the great assembly. —Psalm 40:10

Is your grace declared in the grave, your truth in destruction? Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your just deeds in the land of oblivion? —Psalm 88:11-12

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his justice to the nations. He has remembered his grace and his truth to the house of Israel. —Psalm 98:2-3

I know, O Lord, that your laws are just, and in truth you have afflicted me. May your unfailing grace be my comfort. —Psalm 119:75-76

Which of the three values—compassion, trustworthiness, or acceptance—would others most see in you? If unsure, ask some close friends.

Day 6

God is light (pages 23-25)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." —John 8:12

Who from your childhood most strongly reflected the fullness of God's light to you? What did that look like in practical terms?

Day 7

What is darkness? (pages 26-27)

But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! —Matthew 6:23

Think of a very dark moment in your life when you felt unable to show love or it was being withheld from you. Which of the three outer darkness terms in the diagram—deception, mercilessness, or injustice—was shadowing you most at that time?



School of Love memory verse

Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:36-39



Visit the web site for the chance to meet and hear stories from other School of Love classmates around the world.