



GOD With Us

December 13, 2020
God With Us Brings Love
Beverley Deguire | 1 John 4:9-10

1 John 4:9-10 "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

1. GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE IS _____
2. GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE IS _____
3. FOR MANY OF US GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE WILL _____

*"... In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." **Isaiah 40:3-5***

IF I'M GOING TO FULLY EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS, I HAVE TO ADDRESS MY...

1. VALLEYS - UNEXPECTED _____
Vs 4a "Every valley shall be raised up..."
2. MOUNTAINS - UNEXPECTED _____
Vs 4b "...every mountain and hill made low..."
3. EDGES - UNEXPECTED _____
Vs 4c "...the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read

1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16; Romans 5:8 and 8:35-39; and Isaiah 40:3-5

Reflect

How do you define love?

God's definition of love differs from that of the world.

1. God's gift of love is inclusive
 - a. Can you think of other examples in the Bible that show God's inclusiveness?
 - b. In what ways have you seen human love be exclusive?
 - c. Have you ever found yourself thinking God cares more for some people than others? What other human ways of thinking do we tend to put onto God?
2. God's gift of love is unconditional.
 - a. Do you believe you matter to God just as you are?
 - b. In what ways can you try to emulate God's unconditional love this season?
3. For many, God's gift of love will remain unopened.
 - a. Has Christmas become more of a routine than a true, heartfelt celebration of the most important birth in history? How might we be taking God's love for granted?

To fully experience God's love this Christmas, I have to address my...

1. Valleys: Unexpected loss
 - a. Are you experiencing a valley this season? Have you lost a job, a loved one, or made a bad decision that has led to the loss of someone or something you love?
2. Mountains: Unexpected pressure
 - a. What pressures and expectations are keeping you from focusing on God's love this season?
 - b. When things go well, how can we keep the focus on God rather than ourselves?
3. Edges: Unexpected emotions
 - a. The Christmas season often brings emotions to the forefront. What emotional edges are you dealing with? How will you address them so they don't characterize your life?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can you be supported in this time?

STATS TO DATE | December 6, 2020

Weekly Offering	Actual	Budget	ANNIVERSARY OFFERING	
General	\$29,190	\$34,238		
Missions	\$4,701	\$7,058		
YTD Offering	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
General	\$600,393	\$787,463	\$106,663	\$200,000
Missions	\$126,232	\$162,327		