

## **The Character of God: God Is Loving**

### **Reflect**

1. Describe yourself with one word.
2. Why did you choose that word?
3. Is that word a good reflection of you? (Ask the person who knows you best.)

### **Read Your Bible**

1 John 4:7-14

### **Apply God's Word to Your Life**

1. What is the one-word description of God?
2. Do you mirror this Godly character in your life? Explain how you might or might not.

3. How did God show us His love?
  
4. How is God calling you to give yourself away for other people?
  
5. How do we know that we are on the right track of walking with God? See v. 13 and 14.
  
6. Recall a time when you witnessed another Christian who demonstrated this love well.
  
7. When have you done this well? (and if you're brave, recall a time you could have done better.)
  
8. When do you feel the most godly, Christ-like, alive?

## **Conclusion**

A seminary student returned from school over the Christmas break and began testing his mother's theological knowledge. Yes, he admitted this was a bad idea that stemmed from a place of pride. He was trying to impress her with big ideas and words regarding The Lord's Supper. As the conversation was getting more intense, he asked something to the effect, "What do you think it really means that Jesus is truly present in the bread and the wine?" In exasperation, she replied, "Oh shut up! What I do know is that God loves me, and that makes me feel better!" The conversation was over. Sometimes we make matters about God too difficult. We focus on what we don't know and extrapolate grandiose ideas. Holy Scripture draws us back to the basics, the simple, the believable truth, God is love. Love is the center of God's nature. This love pours out. God gave His Son. Jesus gave His life. He loved first. So that you and I might live and love one another.

## **Pray**

Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me when I was unlovable. Thank You for loving me through Jesus and the outpouring of His blood. Thank You that You loved first, for I was stuck and could not move an inch toward Your goodness. Father give me Your Spirit so that I may love like Jesus did and the world might know You. In His name. Amen.