

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

A Got Questions Ministries Mini Bible Study



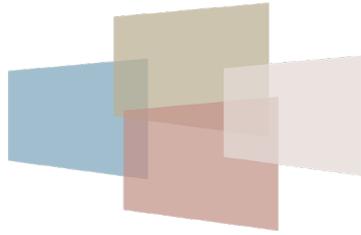


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How to Use This Mini Bible Study

Welcome to the Got Questions Ministries Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!

In these studies you will find content questions to grow your understanding, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

have eternal life through Him.

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html.

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





Lesson 1:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2



Read the passages above. What do they reveal about relationships?



What do these passages reveal about God and His relationship within the Trinity and with humanity?



How does Ephesians 5:1-2 call us to live in light of God's character and His relationship to us?



Why is it important that God is relational? What areas of life does this truth of His character impact?



What do the following verses reveal about God regarding His heart and character?

John 3:16:

John 11:1-36:

Romans 8:14-17:

Ephesians 3:16-21:

1 John 3:1:

Revelation 21:3:



God is relational. He also loves us and gave Himself for us so we could be forgiven and have relationship with Him. If you have not yet trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins, please visit www.gotquestions.org/personal-relationship-with-God.html

If you have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sins, you have relationship with Him, and this relationship impacts our relationship with others. Spend some time reflecting on what that means and thanking God for who He is as a relational God and for what He did so we could have relationship with Him.



Lesson 2:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35



Read John 13:1-30 and the verses above. What do they reveal about relationships?

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8



From <https://www.bibleref.com/John/13/John-13-35.html>

John reiterates this idea in his first letter (1 John 3:14; 4:20). Jesus sets love as the primary outward sign of a person's Christian faith. He is especially referring to love between those who claim to be His followers. Earlier in the evening, Jesus humbly washed the feet of His disciples (John 13:2-5). He explained that this was an example of service for them to follow (John 13:12-17). In the prior verse, Jesus indicated that this command to love falls under that same umbrella: we are to love as Jesus loved (1 John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25). This was phrased as a renewed, re-emphasized command stemming from those He had given before (Matthew 22:36-40).

No aspect of Christian faith can be dismissed, though some are more pressing than others. These include sound doctrine (Titus 2:1; 1 Timothy 6:3-5) and moral behavior (1 John 1:7; Colossians 3:1-10). But the gold standard for living out Christian belief, and the means by which believers are to distinguish themselves from non-believers, is expressed in this verse. As Paul expresses in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, nothing is commendable unless it is done out of love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Love must be pursued truthfully and with good judgment (Ephesians 4:15; John 7:24; 1 John 3:18), but it cannot be set aside under any circumstances.

Why is loving others, especially in our relationships with those in the body of Christ, such an important commandment and a powerful witness to others?



Looking at John 13:1-30, what stands out to you about Jesus' relationship with His disciples, especially Judas, as seen in His words and actions?



Looking at Romans 5:8, what stands out to you about the way God demonstrates His love toward us?



Looking at your own relationships, how would you describe the way you love others in actions and words? This week, consider asking someone who is close to you about what they observe in you regarding the way you love in actions and words.



God demonstrated how we are to love like Him, and Jesus revealed practically what that looked like in action and words. Reflect on the ways our triune God has demonstrated His love to us. Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your understanding of God's love and equip you to love others with His love. Who can you love more like Jesus today with both your actions and words?



Lesson 3:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

... love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:18

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:30-31

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:7-11



Read the passages above. What do they reveal about relationships?



In what ways does loving God and others surpass all other commands?



1 Peter 4:8 calls us to love each other deeply. Other translations say to have “fervent love for one another.” Look up the meanings of these words in either English or the Greek or both. What does loving in this way look like? What is the difference between just loving others versus loving them deeply/fervently?



Think of the five people closest to you relationally. What aspects of your relationship make your relationship so close?



What practical examples does 1 Peter 4:7-11 reveal about loving each other deeply?



From <https://www.gotquestions.org/love-covers-multitude-sins.html>

To “cover” sin is to forgive it, and forgiveness is associated with love. The best example of a love that covers sin is Jesus’ sacrificial death on our behalf. Jesus’ prayer from the cross, “Father, forgive them,” says it all (Luke 23:34). Jesus’ bearing of our iniquities was an undeniable act of love (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10). In fact, Jesus did more than just cover our sin; He did away with it completely (Hebrews 10:12–14).

In 1 Peter 4:8 the apostle is talking about interpersonal relationships. As believers we reflect the love of God by forgiving others. Jesus told His disciples, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34–35). First Corinthians 13 tells us that love “keeps no record of wrongs” (verse 5). When we love each other, we are willing to forgive each other. Love covers sin in that it is willing to forgive.

Love covering sin does not mean we disregard our own emotions or ignore our personal boundaries. We cannot “cover” sin by denying that it hurt us. We cover sin by acknowledging it and then extending the forgiveness God has given us to others.

What does it mean to cover a multitude of sins? What does it not mean?



Think of a time when forgiveness has been granted to you or you extended forgiveness to someone. What effect did that have on you?



What are some hindrances or hesitations in your life to loving others deeply? Why do you think they are there, and what would it look like for you to give those things to the Lord and obey His command to love others deeply?



Loving deeply or fervently is what God calls us to do. Think of any barriers, hesitations, or perhaps even fears you have about loving deeply. Express them to the Lord and give them to Him. What He calls you to do is for your good and His glory, and He will equip you to live in the way He is calling you. Who is God calling you to love more deeply today?



Lesson 4:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7



Read the passage above. What does it reveal about love that impacts relationships?



What do these aspects of love look like, practically speaking?

Is patient:

Is kind:

Does not envy:

Does not boast:

Is not proud:

Does not dishonor others:

Is not self-seeking:

Is not easily angered:

Keeps no record of wrongs:

Does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth:

Always protects:

Always trusts:

Always hopes:

Always perseveres:



Thinking of your relationships, which of these aspects of love are demonstrated regularly? In which aspects would you like the Holy Spirit to help you love more like the Lord?



Love is a choice and a heart attitude or disposition, and it is lived out in action. All are equally important. What do loving actions without a loving heart communicate? What does a loving heart without actions communicate?



Reread the passage for today, but instead of reading “love,” insert your name in its place. Were there any sentences or phrases in this passage that challenged you in the way you love? This kind of love can only come from God, and He will equip you to love this way. Who can you love with this kind of love today?



Lesson 5:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

*A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.*

Proverbs 17:17

*As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27:17

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



Read the verses above. What do they reveal about relationships?



What do friendships provide for us, according to these verses?



In what ways are friendships important to you? What areas of your life do they impact?



How are the friendships God calls us to have different than the world's view of friendship?



Our relationships are so important. They shape our character and our futures. In which of your relationships do you experience these things: loving at all times, sharpening one another, and helping one another when you fall? Thank God for these friends. Thank God that these friends help us in our sanctification process: by helping us grow in godly character, by lovingly exposing what needs to be exposed, and by helping us evaluate our words and actions for what is loving or not and what is godly or not. To whom can you be this kind of friend today?



Lesson 6:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

*A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

*The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge,
but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.*

*The eyes of the LORD are everywhere,
keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

*The soothing tongue is a tree of life,
but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.*

Proverbs 15:1-4

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:19-21

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky

Philippians 2:14-15



Read the passages above. What do they reveal about the impact of our words and attitudes? What is the connection between that and our relationships?



When have your words been detrimental in a relationship? What did you learn from that situation?



What are some of the negative aspects and impacts of our tongues and attitudes according to these passages?



What are some of the positive aspects and impacts of our tongues and attitudes according to these passages?



Looking at your past week, what have your words and attitudes toward others communicated?



In what ways is the Lord currently working on your words and attitudes when it comes to your relationships?



According to these verses, what connection is there between our words and actions and the impact they have on others, particularly those who do not know the Lord?



Our words, which come from the heart, have the power of life and death in them (Proverbs 18:21). That's a big warning! Our words impact both those with whom we have relationships and those who are watching. Who can you better love with your words and attitudes this week?



Lesson 7:

GODLY RELATIONSHIPS

As a prisoner for the LORD, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one LORD, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:



Read the passages above. What do they reveal about relationships?

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:1-11



According to these passages, how does God call us to live with one another in relationship?



***Which of the commands in these passages target our hearts and attitudes?
Why are these attitudes and heart postures so important?***



Our heart postures and attitudes lead to action. What do the following verses call us to do in our relationships? What does that look like practically in your life right now?

Romans 12:1:

Romans 12:16:

Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11:

Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16:

1 Corinthians 12:25:

Galatians 5:13:

Galatians 6:2:

Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13:

Ephesians 4:15, 25:

Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5:

1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11:

Hebrews 10:24:

James 5:16:



Which of the commands from the previous page do you need to better apply to your relationships and why?



God gave us specific commands regarding how we are to treat one another in relationship. God cares about our relationships: both our hearts and our actions. Spend some time thanking God that He cares about our relationships. Then, spend some time thanking God for your friends, each one that He brings to mind specifically. Pray for them as James 5:16 instructs. May the Lord continue to grow and bless your relationships as you seek to follow Him and love others the way He has called you to do.



Wrap Up

Now that you have studied seven lessons on godly relationships, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



How has your understanding of godly relationships changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study?



What will you change in your life as a result of this study?



Who in your life would you like to see grow in their understanding of godly relationships? Commit to praying for them. What will you share with them about what you have learned?