

Stories of Christmas: Loving

Discussion Guide for December 13th and 14th, 2025

Summary

This week's message focuses on the life-changing power of love—the kind of sacrificial, intentional, others-first love modeled by Joseph, King David, and ultimately Jesus Himself.

Joseph chose love when he refused to shame Mary and instead obeyed God's call to stay with her. King David chose love when he extended kindness, honor, and family identity to Mephibosheth, a man society labeled worthless. And above all, God chose to love us—sending Jesus into the world to save us, adopt us, and give us a permanent seat at the King's table.

Christmas is the story of a God who acts in love and invites us to love others in the same sacrificial way.

Intro Prayer

Jesus, thank You for choosing to love us long before we ever loved You. As we read Your Word, reshape our understanding of what real love looks like. Teach us to love when it is costly, inconvenient, or misunderstood. Open our hearts to Your love and help us extend that love to others. Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share a time someone chose to love you in a way that genuinely surprised you or changed you. What made that act meaningful?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 1:18–25
2. 2 Samuel 9

Discussion Questions

1. How does Joseph's response to Mary challenge the way you normally think about loving someone who has hurt or confused you?
2. Where do you notice yourself treating love as a feeling instead of a choice?
3. What relationship in your life currently requires a difficult or inconvenient act of love?
4. Who in your life might feel overlooked, forgotten, or unvalued, and how might you show them Christlike love?
5. In what ways have you personally struggled to believe you are worthy of love, and how does God's view of you speak into that?
6. What is one choice of love God may be inviting you to make this Christmas season?

Life Application

Ask God to show you one person to intentionally love this week, and take a practical step toward them—through mercy, sacrifice, or inclusion—as an act of Christlike love.

Key Takeaways

1. Love is a choice, not just a feeling.
2. God calls us to prioritize others just as Jesus did.
3. Love comes at a cost – often requiring a sacrifice of time, attention, and resources
4. God restores our identity and gives us a seat at His table.
5. Those who receive God's love are called to share it.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us with a love that is faithful, sacrificial, and undeserved. Help us love others in the same way this season. Fill our hearts with Your compassion, courage, and obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen.