

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-32, 35, 38-39)

The fourth week of Advent is LOVE

We hear different ideas of love in music, books, movies and social media. These ideas are mostly talking about a *feeling* of love. But God's love isn't a feeling. It's about a sacrifice. Giving himself for us. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus never sinned and didn't deserve to suffer and die. But he sacrificed himself for us. That's God's love. That's *real* love. Because, without that sacrifice, we would have received the punishment we deserve for our sins. We would be separated from God forever.

God's love for us through Jesus Christ is so powerful and BIG that nothing in the universe can ever change it or separate us from it. Nothing we do or say can change it. God loves us too much to ever stop loving us. He sent Jesus Christ to die and raise from the dead to prove it. Because he loves us, he expects us to love others. That's what Christmas is about.

Family Prayer:

Father, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to take away our sins. Thank you for your love that lasts forever. Please remind us that nothing in the world compares to your love. Please help us to love you and others, as you command us to do. Let us love our family, our neighbors and our church. Lord, when we don't feel like loving, give us your power to do it anyway. In Jesus' name. Amen.