

# When God Shows Up



Sermon Study - 12.21.2025

Leader Corner

Advent Week 4

Love

## Week 4: Love: When God Shows Up in Unconventional Ways

**Main Idea:** Love

**Theme:** The fourth week of Advent focuses on Agape, God's self-giving love. This love models how we are to love God, ourselves, and others sacrificially and unconditionally.

**Main Passage:** Luke 2:1-21

**Main Practice:** Love in Action & Prayer for Love

**Leader Note:** Encourage the group to reflect on the depth of God's love in Christ and how it empowers them to love others. Challenge participants to consider practical ways to demonstrate Agape in their daily lives.

## Prayer & Praise

### Worship Together:

- "O Holy Night" — reflective version
- "Love Came Down" — any version

### Group Prayer (read aloud):

*Jesus, fill us with Your Agape, that our love may mirror Yours. Teach us to love boldly, sacrificially, and with patience, so our lives reflect Your presence and truth. Amen.*

### Prayer Focus:

Invite the group to share one area where they experience God's love most and one area where they need His help to love more fully.

# Principle

## 1. God's Initiating Love – read 1 John 4:9-10

- How does God's Agape shape your understanding of love?

## 2. Command to Love – read John 13:34-35

- How can you actively practice Agape in your community this week?

## 3. Sacrificial Love – read Romans 5:8

- How does Christ's love teach you to love those who are difficult to love?

## 4. Love for Enemies – read Luke 6:27-36

- How can God's call to love enemies reshape your perspective or actions?

## 5. The Nature of True Love – read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

- Which aspect of Agape do you need to grow in this week, and how can you practice it?

# Practice

## Love in Action:

- Invite participants to identify one practical way they can show Agape this week (to a neighbor, family member, or colleague) and follow up next session.

## Prayer for Love:

- Commit to pray daily for God's love to grow in your heart and flow through your actions toward others.

# Further Resources

## Daily Readings on Love:

### Monday – 1 John 4:9-10

*"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."*

Ponder: How does God's Agape initiate and shape your own love for others?

### Tuesday – John 13:34-35

*"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."*

Ponder: How can you actively show Agape in your community this week?

### Wednesday – Romans 5:8

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

Ponder: What does Christ's sacrificial love teach you about loving those who are difficult to love?

### Thursday – Luke 6:27-36

*"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you... Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."*

Ponder: How can God's call to love enemies reshape your perspective or actions?

### Friday – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

Ponder: Which quality of Agape do you need to grow in, and how can you practice it this week?