**The Meaning of Love **

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What would you love to do if you could have a completely free day to spend with a special friend?
2. Does your native language have one word for love or other words to describe the difference between “loving ice cream or chocolate” and loving a family member or a special man (future or current husband)….
3. The word "love" is very flexible in the English language. This explains how a person can say "I love tacos" in one sentence and "I love my wife" in the next. The New Testament (second part of the Bible) – was written in Greek and it has 4 different words for love. Read more below…

***Eros Love-*** *Pronunciation: [AIR - ohs] Eros*is the Greek term that describes romantic or sexual love. The term also portrays the idea of passion and intensity of feeling. The word was originally connected with [the goddess Eros](http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/egodsandgoddesses/g/051909Eros.htm) of Greek Mythology.

**Phileo Love**-Pronunciation: [Fill - EH - oh]describes an emotional connection that goes beyond acquaintances or casual friendships. When we experience phileo, we experience a deeper level of connection. This connection is not as deep as the love within a family, perhaps, nor does it carry the intensity of romantic passion or erotic love. Yet phileois a powerful bond that forms community and offers multiple benefits to those who share it.

**Storge Love** - Pronunciation: [STORE - jay] The love described by the Greek word *storge*is best understood as family love. It's the kind of easy bond that naturally forms between parents and their children -- and sometimes between siblings in the same household. This kind of love is steady and sure. It's love that arrives easily and endures for a lifetime.

**Agape *Love* -*Pronunciation:****{uh-GAH-pay}* is divine love, which makes it perfect, pure, and self-sacrificing. When the Bible says that "God is love" ([1 John 4:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+4:7-9&version=HCSB)), it's referring to agapelove.

With these definitions in mind, read the following verses. These verses use the Agape form of the word love.

**7“Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. 8Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. 10Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.”**

**I John 4:7-10 (**[**New International Reader's Version**](https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/)**)**

1. How do you feel about this concept of God’s love? Do you think it is better to love or be loved? Why?