Short Study 001:
Love as Jesus Showed it

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Read John 15:12 and I Corinthians 13

Jesus instructed His disciples "Love one another as I have loved you". Consider then in what ways Jesus showed love for his disciples – including you and me …

Seeking Love. Read Luke 19:10. The Lord did not wait for us to love him before he sought us (compare the Parable of the Lost Sheep, in Matthew 18:12-14). Love does not wait for others to change. It takes the initiative to make the first approach. Think how you might put I Corinthians 13:4-7 into practice.

Serving Love. Read Matthew 20:28. Jesus set an example of service by washing his disciples' feet (John 13:1-17). This was a practical, menial task to make guests feel more comfortable after picking up dust and grit in their open sandals. What do you think might be the modern day equivalent in your culture today? Galatians 5:13 tells us "Through love serve one another".

Sacrificial Love. Read John 15:13. Jesus gave his very life for his friends. There can be no greater sacrifice. You may not be called upon to give so much, but love inevitably demands some sacrifices, small or great. What might we have to put aside to show practical love to someone? I Corinthians 13:5 tells us "(Love) is not self-seeking" (NIV).

Language note: The original Greek word translated "love" in these passages and in most of the New Testament is *agapé*. It means a practical, selfless love that is based less on feelings and more on the will to do good to another. Though the word "charity" has debased in meaning since it was used by the translators of the Authorised (Kings James) version of the Bible in 1611, it does highlight the active, practical nature of love as Jesus showed it.

To think about: What other examples of Jesus' love can you identify in the Gospels?

To dig deeper: Look up the meaning and usage of the Greek word *agapé.* You can start by consulting the word "love" in a Bible Dictionary or a Lexicon, either of which should refer to the Greek origin.