



Summer Challenge

GROW CLOSER to GOD

3 Months, 3 Different Challenges to help
 you grow closer to God! 

**Free Guidebook with Worksheets and Schedule.
Scripture, Prayer Prompts and Reflection Questions all
Free!**

Welcome to Spiritually Hungry's Summer Challenge: Grow Closer To God Month 2 - God's Love For You

God's love for us - for you - is life changing. When one realizes they are immensely loved by God, their life begins to open up in new ways. That's when healing comes. Joy comes. Peace comes. Purpose comes.

God's love is what the Gospel is all about, as stated in John 3:16. And this is why we decided Month 2 of this summer Challenge should be situated around God's love.

We hope that this month is an awakening to the depth and reality of God's love for you. Even if you already have accepted God's love into your life, you can always grow deeper into His love, because it is immeasurable.

This 31 day plan for focusing on God's love is the second of three Challenges we're releasing this summer to help you cultivate a deeper connection to God and the profound relationship that He wants with you. Focusing on His love for you as displayed in Scripture will help you get a deeper sense of God's grace, power and deepest desires for you to have a strong(er) relationship with Him.

In this Challenge, you'll find:

An Entrance Worksheet:

The questions in this worksheet will help you process how you presently think about God's love and what it means for your life.

The 30 Day Challenge:

Each day, you'll be provided with Scripture to read through that describes something about the power of God's love for you. You'll also receive a reflection to help you process your reading and turn to God in prayer about the truth you've received in Scripture.

An Exit Worksheet:

After completing the worksheet, you'll be asked to complete a final worksheet to process all you've learned about God's love through Scripture, and to give you some ideas for moving forward with your new understanding of our loving God.

If you follow this Challenge, we believe you'll come out the other side with a profoundly new appreciation of God and the wonderful and good desires He has for your relationship with Him. Can you imagine how your life might look differently if you were

able to see God's love for you in all circumstances? That's our hope for you in taking this Challenge!

Entrance Worksheet

#1 Why are you taking this Challenge?

#2 What do you hope to get out of this Challenge?

#3 What would you like to be different in your understanding of God's love for you?

#4 What is your understanding of love? What does it look like to you? (see 1 Corinthians 13 for God's definition of perfect love)

#5 How do you see God's love presently?

#6 How well do you receive God's love? Is it hard for you to recognize, appreciate or receive?

#7 Did you grow up in an environment and with people that recognized God's love? How do you think recognizing God's love might affect your life?

Day 1

Today's Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:34 NIV

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Scripture Reflection: God's love endures forever. How does this truth affect your daily life?

Day 2

Today's Scripture: John 3:16 NIV

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Scripture Reflection: It was a sacrifice for both God the Father and for Jesus the Son to leave the perfect union of the Trinity and the perfection of Heaven to come down into our mess. Jesus' coming was pure love. With Jesus' life, He showed us what it is like to live in God's truth and love. And because of His selfless, blameless sacrifice we can be reunited with God. This is the immense love God has for you.

Day 3

Today's Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:9 NIV

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful
God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of
those who love him and keep his commandments.

Scripture Reflection: The name of the majority of people throughout history have been forgotten, and yet God, in His faithfulness remembers each person. There is no figure in the universe with the expansive knowledge and capacity for love like our God. As Christian people, we stand alongside generations that have experienced His love and mercy, now and for all eternity.

Day 4

Today's Scripture: Romans 5:8 NIV

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

Scripture Reflection: God's love is the epitome of grace and power. In previous interactions with humanity, God established rules and procedures for His people to interact with Him. When God chose to send a piece of Himself, Jesus Christ, to this world He threw His rules out. He interacted with humanity and remained sinless. He did this because, God knew that this was the only way to rectify the sin-nature of this world and bring His creation back to Him. God's love for you is this big, broad and deep.

Day 5

Today's Scripture: 1 John 3:1a NIV

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Scripture Reflection: Anyone who follows Jesus Christ is now in a new family with the most amazing Father any one could ever dream of, God Himself. Often times in life, people are dealt families that are not supportive and loving. Whether you come from a family where it was tough or not, you now are in a perfect family with a perfect Dad. Embrace that reality with God the Father today and grow in your relationship with your good, good Dad!

Worship Song: "Good, Good Father" by Chris Tomlin

Day 6

Today's Scripture: Isaiah 41:10 NIV

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Scripture Reflection: God's love looks like this! For He is strong and with you and there is no need to fear for He is powerful, truthful and good. He cares for you so much that He strengthens you and uplifts you through His love and guidance. While that does not mean your problems disappear, what it does mean is that you are equipped to deal with your problems with the power and love of God. This is love!

Day 7

Today's Scripture: 1 John 3:16a NIV

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

Scripture Reflection: Are you unsure of what God's love looks like? If so, immerse yourself in the story of Jesus and place yourself in the text. See how Jesus cares and loves for you so deeply that He sacrificed His own life to be reunited with you in this world and the next. Your understanding of God's love for you begins here and this is where your relationship with God grows!

Day 8

Today's Scripture: Psalm 86:15 NIV

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Scripture Reflection: God's love is a true and good love, the perfect example of what our love should look like. Take some time today and reflect deeply with God on what this piece of Scripture means to you and your understanding of God's love for you.

Day 9

Today's Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:5 NIV

May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Scripture Reflection: That is our desire for you as you traverse this Challenge, that you may be led deeper into God's love and it transform your life and your relationship with Him. Imagine with God for a moment, what your life would look like if you lived in the reality that you are deeply loved by the King of kings.

Day 10

Today's Scripture: Zephaniah 3:17 NIV

The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.

Scripture Reflection: God's love for you is like a song, surrounding you at all times. His love for you is mighty and powerful, it literally changes your life, reality and perspective. Soak in His love for you today, be on the look out for His love encapsulating you today.

Day 11

Today's Scripture: Psalm 23:6 NIV

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Scripture Reflection: God's love will follow you all of your life. The challenge for you is to recognize it and live in it while you traverse this world. A better, sin free life is ahead, a place where you will be in communion with God forever. Until then, you do have His presence with you and His love and these are amazing gifts and tools for this world.

Day 12

Today's Scripture: Romans 8:38-39 NIV

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.

Scripture Reflection: There is nothing, NOTHING, that can separate God's love for you. Breathe in this truth, this reality and spend some time speaking with God about the implications of this truth.

Day 13

Today's Scripture: John 15:9 NIV

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

Scripture Reflection: Jesus' life was a perfect example of what it looks like to live in God's love in this broken world. Jesus' charge to the disciples before His death, was to embody His love. This charge is for you to. Ask Jesus to help you grow in this command. Ask Him to help you recognize and live in His perfect love.

Day 14

Today's Scripture: Psalm 36:7 NIV

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Scripture Reflection: Have you ever viewed God's love like this, priceless? How might viewing God's love have priceless change your understanding of His love for you?

Day 15

Today's Scripture: 1 John 4:10 NIV

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

Scripture Reflection: God's love doesn't begin with us turning to Him, His love for us begins with Him and Him alone. God loves His creation and longs for them to return to His way, His truth and His love. For while we still sinners He sent His son Jesus to atone for our sins, Romans 5:8. He loves you, He simply loves you, "Just as you are not as you ought to be."-Brennan Manning

Worship Song: "How He Loves" by David Crowder Band

Day 16

Today's Scripture: Hebrews 12:6 The Voice Translation

For the Lord disciplines those He loves,
and He corrects each one He takes as His own

Scripture Reflection: Discipline never feels good. As children, we detest admonishment. But it is for our own good. As God is the perfect Father, perfect parent, we can trust that all is done in love and for our good and the good of His kingdom. Discipline helps us become better, new creations in Christ. As you face discipline from God our perfect parent, remember that it is done through love and a parent who doesn't discipline their child is a parent who isn't truly loving their child. You are God's child and He loves you too much to let you stay the way you are, it is done for your good!

Day 17

Today's Scripture: Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Scripture Reflection: It might be difficult to recognize how our life before Jesus was a place of death, but from a spiritual perspective, that's exactly what it is. From the moment of birth, we begin a journey that will ultimately, one day, end in death. Death is always the trajectory - but in God, our path becomes one of eternal life. That is true life - life that never ends.

Day 18

Today's Scripture: John 10:10-11 NIV

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Scripture Reflection: The love that God has for you is seen through the selfless, blameless life of Jesus Christ. As God knows evil is around every corner and that evil confuses, blinds and tricks us all the time. God's solution, defeat evil and bring His people back to Him. He is a good shepherd, one who loves you deeply. Rest in that truth today.

Day 19

Today's Scripture: Psalm 139:13-14 NIV

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

Scripture Reflection: You were created by God's hand. He guided you through your mother's pregnancy. God knows you intimately, better than you know yourself. God's love has formed you and sustains you. He made you beautiful and is deeply in love with you. Allow this love to wash over you.

Day 20

Today's Scripture: Psalm 136:1-3 NIV

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.

Scripture Reflection: God's faithful love endures forever! This is true for your relationship and interaction with Him. He loves you and won't stop. Give thanks to God for His unfailing love.

Day 21

Today's Scripture: 1 John 4:16 NIV

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Reflection Question: What does it look like to trust God's love in your life? Take some time and reflect with God what this means for you and what the implications of trusting God's love in your life would look like.

Day 22

Today's Scripture: Romans 5:5b NLT

For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Scripture Reflection: The Holy Spirit is our agent for God's love to personally affect us. So while God is not visibly with us, not until Heaven and the new Earth, God has sent the Holy Spirit to guide us and have His presence among us. God did not want us to wait until the new age for us to experience His love, He has given us a piece of Him so that we can walk with Him in His love. This is a gracious, amazing gift.

Day 23

Today's Scripture: Revelation 21:4

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Scripture Reflection: Praise be to God that one day there will be no more death, no more pain, no more decay. Our lives will be perfect with God in our new dwelling place. This is our hope, the hope of residing with God in a sin free state. God does not have to give us this, but He does because He loves His children, He loves you.

Day 24

Today's Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Scripture Reflection: God does not neglect care for you. He loves you so much that He calls you to give Him your worries and fears. He is big enough to handle them and knows

that you are not capable of handling what weighs you down. His love is so grand for you that He offers this grace-filled invitation, will you take it today?

Day 25

Today's Scripture: Psalm 33:18 NIV

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love

Scripture Reflection: Fear is not being afraid of God, but rather reverence, respect for God. Those who live in this manner are living a life open to God's love. Keep your eyes on Him and seek after His heart. Look throughout your days for all of the little examples of God's love for you. Should you not be able to ascertain His love through out your day, ask the Holy Spirit to awaken your senses to God's overwhelming love for you.

Day 26

Today's Scripture: Psalm 32:10b NIV

but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

Scripture Reflection: God's love is available for you today, as you are a faithful follower of Him. Because you fix your eyes on the only true thing in this world, you begin to open yourself up to a new reality a new kingdom-The Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Day 27

Today's Scripture: John 1:14 NLT

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Scripture Reflection: The immense love that God should choose to come down into our messy world and dwell among us is a whole new reality of what love means. God did this because He loves us and He wants us to be back in relationship with Him. Take a few moments and truly reflect on the profoundness of this truth.

Day 28

Today's Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Prayer Prompt: Simply make this your prayer for the day.

Day 29

Today's Scripture: Proverbs 8:17 NIV

I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.

Scripture Reflection: This is a clear cut truth. God loves you who seek Him. You are loved by God. You are loved by God. You are loved by God!

Day 30

Today's Scripture: Galatians 2:20 NIV

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Scripture Reflection: Paul's words apply to anyone who is walking with God, being shaped and molded by Him. God's love for the follower of Him is so strong that He is bringing new life to you. Our lives are no longer left to our own broken ideas of fixing

ourselves. As one walks with God, He guides you into a better life. And this is all done because of the unshakeable love of Jesus Christ.

Day 31 - Final Reflection

Today's Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Scripture Reflection: We end this Challenge with this verse as a charge of hope and in light of God's love for you. God knows everything you will face in your life. While walking with God doesn't mean you will not face pain, what it does mean is that God will be able to equip you for what you face and bring immense good out of it for you and for His name sake. Take some time to thank God for preparing you for the future, what an unbelievable love is that!

Thank You

We hope you had a great month reflecting on the awesome nature of God's love for you. He's an amazing God, who always has the best intentions for us, even if we can't see it at every moment. God's love is the source of all the fruit available to the Christian's life and we hope that the past few weeks have helped you recognize that God's love is available to you.

We have more Challenges, At Home Retreats and great articles on our site spirituallyhungry.com, check out for more resources!

(Exit Worksheet On Next Page)

Exit Worksheet

#1 Now that you've finished this Challenge, what stands out in your mind the most about God's love?

#2 What are some of the ways that you have seen God's love manifest in your own life?

#3 What are areas where you need to recognize more of God's love in your life?

#4 Is there a person, organization, or other entity in your life that exemplifies someone touched by and operates out of an understanding God's love? What might you be able to learn from their example?

#5 Are there images in your mind that help you better visualize the powerful nature of God's love?

#6 Was there a favorite piece of Scripture that you read during this Challenge? You might considered revisiting it and memorizing it.