



FBCD's Ignite Youth Groups' Hottest Stories & Updates!

Volume 3 Issue 2

February 2016

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God's Never-ending Love

By: Andrea Barajas

Hey, guys! Welcome to February. I pray that all is well for everyone. Has it ever occurred to you that although we maintain and support our bodies from harm, God is watching out for you? Imagine that one time you were involved in an earthquake, or that time that you nearly fell down the stairs. God is always watching out for you.

It says in John 3:16,

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

God loved US so much, he gave up his son. Could you imagine if your parents gave you up to save humanity? That would be pretty amazing. Imagine, God created us from the ground, knowing of all the evil we would do, and still decided to create us. He *knew* that some of us would betray him, but decided to go through with it anyway. God's love is incredible. He keeps us safe from harm, and will welcome us when we finally go home to live with Him. He forgives us when we do repent, and shows his love by keeping us safe and sound. If you ever feel unloved by anyone, remember *God is watching out for you, even if you don't feel it. So, remember to glorify God this Valentine's Day because he's the one who loves you the MOST.*

Love always,

Andrea Barajas

Student Editor for The Burn



Loving Intentionally

Jackson Fong—Student Ministries Pastor

Hey All!

I pray that you are well, that your Christmas was blessed, and that 2016 has started well for you.

This year has kicked off with a great flurry of activity. We have had a month crammed with a game day, serving the homeless at Beacon Light, painting the youth room, and attending *Turn Your Campus* at Biola University. We have studied much about the new year, goals, maintaining goals, and *Living Intentionally*. We have heard from some great leaders from California School Project and Cru Ministries, and they have given us some great tools and resources to strengthen our walk on campus, as well as for sharing our faith.

This month, our focus is on LOVING INTENTIONALLY. Relationships don't typically happen by accident. They do not grow, mature or be sustained by accident either. This month, we'll be looking at what the Bible says about the topic of love.

In addition to our leaders making time to INTENTIONALLY reconnect with God through the BE STILL SATURDAY at Biola University, this month we will be making time to connect and focus on God through: Beacon Light Mission, our annual AGAPE FEAST, a COMMUNITY NIGHT OF WORSHIP with several other youth ministries from throughout Downey, and a JILL'S HOUSE WEEKEND ADVENTURE. We'll start a new Sunday series based on how everything came together. As we look at relationships, we want to start off with our relationship with God, and how our even being here is INTENTIONAL. Wednesdays we will be taking time to look deeper into the aspects of love, as well as ways to express that.

Typically during this time of year, we focus on those closest to us. But God's call on our lives is deeper and wider than that. There are over 200 passages in the New Testament alone that talk about love. A key and foundational thought comes from Jesus in Mark 12:29-31.

²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. ³⁰ And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Loving God is important, doing that is intentional. Loving others is important, doing that is intentional. Loving the others who are not your friend, are difficult to be within the same room as you and might just annoy you, is important, doing that is TOTALLY INTENTIONAL. Loving yourself so that you can fully and effectively love others is important, doing that is intentional. The love God calls us to goes beyond a feeling, beyond the status quo, and beyond just riding through life. The love God calls us to is LOVING INTENTIONALLY. As you live life, choose to love.

If you have any questions about any of this or just in general, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Blessed by God's Love,

Jackson

FBCD Student Ministries Pastor

Reviewing Past Events

Hmmm ... we are missing Pictures and reviews.

Perhaps they were YOURS.

Submit for the next issue!

Painting



Reviewing Past Events

Hmmm ... we are missing Pictures and reviews.

Perhaps they were YOURS.

Submit for the next issue!

Ignite with Cru and CSP



Reviewing Past Events

Hmmm ... we are missing Pictures and reviews.

Perhaps they were YOURS.

Submit for the next issue!

Turn Your Campus



A Practice to Practice

by Judy Perez

ROMANS 12:9-13

⁹ Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lack diligence; be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. ¹³ Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

*As Christians we need to put this into practice and keep growing in grace,
Peace be with you all.....*



YOUR Article Could Be Here!

We are looking for

- Short stories • Devotionals • Your Questions • Your Memories (Past Events)
Photos / Artwork

It does not have to be long. (Or it can be as long as you would like.) We are looking for a minimum of two paragraphs.

You can look up a passage of Scripture and share about what God is teaching you.

Share about your stories, your struggles and your dreams.

We want to give you options as well as opportunity.

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY!

Send submissions to
JacksonF@FBCDowney.org or
andrea.brja2@gmail.com

Stay Informed!

-Check out FBCDowney.com

-Find our Student and Parent Facebook Pages

-Text Updates

Middle School—Text JHS to 33733

High School—Text HSGroup to 33733

College—Text FBCA to 33733

Love in the Bible – Who Cares?

By Jim Fountain

Out of 4 types of love in Greek (the original language used for the New Testament), only Agape (sacrificial) and Philia (brotherly) are in the Bible specifically. Definitions, scriptural examples and questions for you are on all four types of love below.

1. “Agape’s (pronounced uh-GAH-pay) definition: Agape is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love, the highest of the four types of love in the Bible.”¹ In John 14:21, New Living Translation (NLT), Jesus said: *Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me. And because they love Me, My Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.*

→Should you care about sacrificial or agape love? If Jesus gave up his life for you and me, would you be willing sacrifice to your life for him?

2. “Philia (pronounced FILL-ee-uh) definition: Philia means close friendship or brotherly love in Greek.”¹ In Romans 12:10, English Standard Version (ESV): *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

→A question that you might ask yourself: do you as a young person keep close friendship or philia love with other Christian young people? Or, are most of your friends non-Christian?

3. “Storge (pronounced STOR-jay) definition: Storge is family [or familiar] love, the bond among mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers.”¹ In Exodus 20:12 (NLT): *Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*

→Here’s a good question: do you have a strong bond or storge love with your family (parents, brothers or sisters)? If not, why not?

4. “Eros (pronounced AIR-ose) definition: Eros is the physical, sensual [lustful] love between a husband and wife.”¹ In 1 Corinthians 7:8-9 (NLT): *So I say to those who aren’t married and to widows—it’s better to stay unmarried, just as I am. But if they can’t control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It’s better to marry than to burn with lust.*

→Do you have problems with lust or eros (erotic) love in an unwholesome way? In what way?

In closing, hopefully this review of the 4 types of love in Greek as they relate to the Bible brings us to a closer understanding of what love means—whether it is selfless (Agape), brotherly (Philia), familiar (Storge) or lustful (Eros). Yes the Bible does talk about love; however, you need to again review the questions with the “→” after the numbered paragraphs above. Those questions really are a test as to how you as a Christian young person should care about love.

¹ <http://christianity.about.com/od/biblefactsandlists/tp/Love-In-The-Bible.htm>

Dates to Save in 2016

Feb 6	Be Still Saturday
Feb 6	Beacon Light Mission (Opportunity to serve) Please arrive by 5:45 pm
Feb 10	Agape Feast
Feb 13	Parents Night Out (Opportunity to serve) Please arrive by 5:30 pm
Feb 19-20	Jill's House Mission Trip 1 (\$50 Per Person—Leaving at 3:30 pm)
Feb 24	Student Leader Meeting (5 pm)
Feb 27	Community Night of Worship (Meet at FBCD @ 6 pm)
Feb 28	Guitar/Drum Lessons / Tech Meeting and Drama Practice (2 pm)
Mar 5	Beacon Light Mission (Opportunity to serve) Please arrive by 5:45 pm
Mar 6	Adult Leader Meeting 12-1 (Lunch is included)
Mar 6	Guitar/Drum Lessons / Tech Meeting and Drama Practice (2 pm)
Mar 9	Student Leader Meeting (5 pm)
March 11-12	Stuck In The Middle (Middle School ONLY)
Mar 20	Youth Drama Team in both Services
March 29– Apr 2	Rainbow Acres Missions Trip
April 8-9	YS Team Training
April 22-23	Planet Wisdom
April 29-30	CMTA (Adult leader option)
April 30	Student Leadership Training Summit (Adult/Student leader option)
May 7	Beacon Light Mission
May 13-15	Jill's House Mission Trip 2 1 (\$50 Per Person—Leaving at 3:30 pm)
May 19-21	UYWI (Leader option \$150)
July 3-8	Middle School Camp
July 11-15	VBS
July 17-22	HS Camp
Dec 3-5	Jill's House Mission Trip 3 1 (\$50 Per Person—Leaving at 3:30 pm)

Community Night Of WORSHIP

Saturday, February 27th, 2016

6 pm—9:30 pm

We will meet at FBCD for a simple meal and game before heading out a 6 pm

Please bring \$5 to help with the cost of dinner.

We will return back to FBCD to be picked up by 9:30 pm

We will be partnering up with several local youth ministries in the city of Downey.

Bring a Friend!

Valentine's Day Word Search

Q F O R W C G O D E S O R L O V E D T T H E Y L U I O C P A
S L D F V A L E N T I N E S D A Y G H J K Q H O P E L A S D
W O R L D R K T H A T W H E Q G A V E S H I S V C T O N E Y
G W H A N D J G L Z S A C R I F I C E O N L Y E S O N D Q W
P E T H A T F I W H O R A Y S O D A T E U I O L P H J L K L
O R Q D R L O V E B G T R H T T E V E R T Y B E L I N E M L
I S A B E L I E V E S U E J E E I N R H I M U T J W I L L K
J O H N T H R E E S I X T E E N E R N H A V E T Y U L I F E
U W R O M A N T I C K M U I D D W C A N D Y P E O I U G H N
Y E Z C S E L F L E S S N O P E A S L D F P U R E G B H V C
T R X F O R E V E R M N L H R R W E R T A S D H E A R T Z X

Candle Light Candy Card Care Date Eternal Forever Flowers Give Heart Hope
Love Love letters Pure Romantic Sacrifice Selfless Tender Valentines Day

Shout Outs—Love Notes for those who mean a TON to me!

Emily Garcia—My dad, Jesus

Sarah Cisneros—Mrs. Ramirez for being an amazing role model

Madison Oliver—Mrs. Ramirez because she is always supportive and is always a helpful person

Brianna Garcia—My dog for making me happy, my bffs for being amazing

Molly Rhodes—My God

Rafaela Ramirez—My Lord and Savior

Matias Ramirez—My Family

Arizl Pachzco—My mom for putting up with me

During this time of year, a note of love or encouragement can be

priceless

Share your love and appreciation!

Remind your:

Friends

Neighbors

Classmates

Teammates

Teachers

Small Group Leaders

Aunts

Uncles

Cousins

Grandparents

Parents

FBCD Student Ministry Events February 2016

Saturday, February 6 - **Be Still Saturday**

7:30 am (Meet in front of the Gym)

\$30 Per Person

Life too rushed and intense? Take a minute to "Be Still" and KNOW God

A short day retreat to remember who God is and to listen to His voice

Saturday, February 6 - **Beacon Light Mission**

5:45 pm - 9 pm

Please join us for a night of service, ministering to the homeless.

Wednesday, February 10 - **Agape Feast**

6 pm - 8 pm (Rm 214)

Please bring a dessert to share

Join us for a night to remember and explore what God tells us about love. For then, and today.

Friday - Sunday, February 19-21 - **Jill's House Weekend Adventure**

Meet at the church to leave at 3:30 pm

Saturday, February 27 - **Community Night of Worship**

6 pm (Meet in front of the gym)

Join us as we gather with several local churches and ministries for a night of encouragement and worship.

For Additional Details, please check out FBCDowney.org

Or find us on Facebook!

Submission Options 2016 Updated Submission Topics and Themes

March—Easter, Forgiveness, Christ (Due Feb 21)

April—Spring, Growth, Spring Cleaning (Due Mar 27)

May—Mom, Beauty, Nature (Due Apr 24)

June—Dad, Graduation, Fire, Summer (Due May 27)

To submit pictures or articles for next month contact

Andrea - andrea.brja2@gmail.com

or Jackson - Jacksonf@fbcdowney.org

The Presence of Love

By Sherry Fong

One word comes to mind when I hear the words Valentine's Day - love. I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking this. There is an endless amount of sermons, essays, books, articles, and whatever else that could be written about love. I won't pretend to know absolutely everything about love, and I sure as heck can't pretend that I've got this whole "love" thing figured out. But I can tell you what I do know. Love comes in many shapes and sizes.

This may seem obvious, or even pointless to bring up. But I think we take love for granted every day. We fail to see love woven in our lives, and we fail to feel the love God endlessly pours into us. Love comes romantically, love comes in friendships, and family. And even then, there is even more types of love within these relationships. The way you love your father is different from the way you love your mother: the way you love your sister is different from the way you love your brother. Our lives are filled to the brim with love, and most days we, myself included, fail to see that love.

And you know what? That makes me sad. Love is powerful. Love is a superpower, one that is born from the creator of the entire universe. Love moves people to do things they never thought they could. Look at every superhero ever. Superman, Batman, Wolverine, Cyclops, Wonder Woman, Hawkgirl, Green Lantern. (I could go on forever, but you get the point. I'm a nerd and there are LOTS of superheros.) What drives them most, is love. Love for the families they protect, love for people around the world. Their most desperate moments, and their most fulfilling, are found because of love. And that's just in the fictional world. Incredible love does incredible things everyday. Mothers lift cars to save their children. People jump in front of a gun. In less drastic circumstances, people choose to put their reputation on the line for their friends and families, fathers and mothers everywhere work so hard to feed their family. Students take up jobs to help at home. And that's just a few examples. These people make sacrifices for the people they love, and sometimes we all fail to see how astounding that is.

Love is all about putting others first. The two greatest commandments are to love God and to love others. If we get nothing else right, its to learn how to love. That's how important, how powerful love is. Like I said before, love comes in many shapes and sizes. No one can love like you can. What is the shape of your love? The size of your love? What power does your love have? Where do you see the love in your life?

Because even though it doesn't feel like it, that love is there. Even if it doesn't feel like it, that love is powerful. That love is important. That love is yours, and its yours to share the same way God shares His ever flowing love with us every moment of every day.