

A Love Worth Giving

by Max Lucado

Discussion Guide

A Love Worth Giving, by Max Lucado (W Publishing Group, copyright © 2002), shares the secret to loving others the way that God loves us. We first need to receive God's love to in turn be able to love others. The key to loving is to live as a beloved child of God. Lucado uses biblical illustrations and verses to show the power of God's love while providing practical ideas and insights on how to make the most of God's greatest gift to us.

Permission is granted to reproduce this discussion guide.

Chapter 1

The 7:47 Principle

This chapter introduces the need to receive God's love first in order to give love to others.

1. Share why you have selected this book to read and what you hope to learn from it.
2. Explain the meaning of the title of this book, *A Love Worth Giving*.
3. In your own words, explain the "7:47 Principle" and give an illustration of it.
4. List and discuss the differences between Simon and the woman.
5. What other attributes does Lucado suggest we can't show others if we haven't first received them from God?

Chapter 2

Love's Flagship

This chapter shows the importance of patience and its connection to living loved.

1. In your own words, give a description and illustration of patience. How is love patient?
2. In what ways is God patient with us and why?
3. Explain the connection between patience and understanding.
4. List the ways that impatience imprisons the soul.

Chapter 3

Your Kindness Quotient

This chapter zeros in on kindness—God's kindness to us—and our need to be kind to others.

1. Share a story of how God has been kind to you.
2. What does it cost to be kind to others? Why can it be difficult at times?
3. What does the word for *kindness* in the original language mean? How does it add to our modern understanding of kindness?
4. List some examples of the kindness of Jesus.
5. Give reasons why you should be kind to others—and kind to yourself.

Chapter 4

Inflamed

This chapter examines the dangers of jealousy and envy.

1. What makes people jealous? List some common triggers.
2. What's the cure for envy? Why does true love take away the fire of jealousy?
3. List some of the consequences of envy. How does envy hurt all parties involved?
4. Explain what it means that God withholds what we desire to give us what we need. Give an illustration of this.

Chapter 5

God's "No Pecking" Zone

This chapter shows the importance of humility and putting others before yourself.

1. What are some of the obstacles that make it difficult to put others first, ahead of yourself?
2. Why is it important to accept your part in God's plan and also be quick to applaud the success of others?
3. List and discuss some of the ways that Jesus humbled himself.
4. If everyone regarded others as more important, what would happen?

Chapter 6

A Call To Common Courtesy

This chapter reminds us that love is not rude and that we need to be courteous to others.

1. Why is common courtesy not so common today? Use road rage as an example.
2. Discuss the impact of non-believers making decisions about Christ by watching us.
3. Define rudeness. Why is this behavior unacceptable?
4. Give some examples of how Jesus illustrates what it means to be courteous.

Chapter 7

Getting the "I" Out of Your Eye

This chapter warns against acting selfish because it blocks out love.

1. Define selfishness and list some of the symptoms of it.
2. How do you hurt yourself and others when you act selfish?
3. What's the cure for selfishness?
4. How are we changed when we focus on Christ instead of ourselves?

Chapter 8

The Headwaters of Anger

This chapter shows the origin of anger and looks at how to cope with rejection.

1. Discuss why anger is not a sin, but why it is a dangerous feeling.
2. How should Christians cope with anger and rejection?
3. Explain how anger and rejection are related.
4. What does it mean that through Christ, God has accepted you?

Chapter 9

The Heart Full of Hurts

This chapter shows how to keep “trash” from accumulating in your heart and mind.

1. Explain what it means to have a trash-filled heart.
2. Why does Paul encourage us to keep no record of wrongs? What’s the danger in keeping a record of wrongs?
3. How do we keep “trash” out of our thoughts?
4. What lessons can we learn from how Jesus treated the woman of Samaria?

Chapter 10

The Love Test

This chapter provides insights on how to assess the quality of your love.

1. What causes us to feel “low on love” at times?
2. Discuss the dangers of making decisions about relationships based on feelings instead of facts.
3. Give your own definition of real love. How do you know when love is real?
4. List and discuss some of the test questions and truths about love as suggested by the author in this chapter.

Chapter 11

Love Is a Package Deal

This chapter looks at the difficulties of loving others and how agape love is the answer.

1. What lessons did Jesus teach us about love?
2. Explain the meaning of agape love.
3. Why is love a cure for many of today's ills?
4. How did Paul deal with the troubles of the early church? What issues were involved? What advice did Paul provide?

Chapter 12

A Cloak of Love

This chapter illustrates how love protects like a cloak.

1. What does a "cloak of love" mean? Who needs one? How do you get it?
2. Share a time when someone gave you a cloak of love.
3. List some of the ways in which love protects.
4. At what times is love silent? At what times does love speak and what does it say?

Chapter 13

The Ring of Belief

This chapter examines the power of believing in someone.

1. Share a time when someone believed in you. How did this help you?
2. What lessons about the power of belief are found in the parable of the prodigal son?
3. List some ways we can show people that we believe in them.
4. God believes in you. How is your life changed because of that?

Chapter 14

When You're Low on Hope

This chapter shows the importance of hope and how it is connected to love.

1. Describe how it feels to be low on hope.
2. How can we help others who need hope?
3. Discuss the connection between love and hope. Give an example.
4. Jesus provides us with hope. List some kinds of hope that he provides each day.

Chapter 15

He Could Have Given Up

This chapter shines the spotlight on the endurance of love.

1. Discuss what it means that love endures all things. List some examples.
2. List some of the things that could have caused Jesus to give up. Explain why he didn't.
3. Share a time when you had to choose between enduring and giving up.
4. How did Jesus endure rejection? What can we learn from him?

Chapter 16

Unfailing Love

This chapter provides a summary of how to discover a love worth giving.

1. Why is it important to receive love before we give love?
2. Make 2 lists of people—those that are easy to love and those who are hard to love. What's the difference between these two groups?
3. Explain what “living loved” means to you.
4. What new insights about love did you receive from reading this book?