

The background of the entire page is a light blue and white floral pattern. It features large, stylized flowers with pink and orange petals and green centers. There are also intricate black swirls and a small butterfly in the upper right corner. The text is overlaid on this pattern.

LEARNING TO *Love*

4-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

DARLENE SCHACHT, THE TIME-WARP WIFE

Introduction

4 Words for Love

Our English language is complicated at times—especially when it comes to love. We use the same word to describe our passion for hamburgers, our adoration for God, and the affection between a husband and wife.

While we simply have one word for love, the ancient Greeks used four:

Storge – natural affection, most often between family members such as the affection between parents and children

Philia – brotherly love, friendship

Eros – a romantic, passionate love

Agape – God’s love toward man and our reflection of this love

Two of these words--agape and philia--appear in the text of the Bible, while the other two do not. There is one exception to this however, where the compound word, *philóstorgos* (*Strong’s 5387*) appears in Romans 12:10 as “kindly affectioned.” It describes a family love we share between believers.

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. – Romans 12:10

We also find the word “*astorgos*” (without natural affection) in Romans 1:31 and 2 Timothy 3:3.

Despite the fact that the words themselves aren’t found in the Bible, *eros* and *storge* are evident in many of the relationships we find therein.

As we go through this study, we’ll examine each love individually. We’ll look at stories in the Bible to see where love was evident in a person’s life, and where it may have been misused.

With Love Comes Sacrifice

One important lesson we must keep in mind is that *God is love*, but *love is not God*.

In other words, love without the truth of God's word, or apart from God's will should not be equated with God. But then again, nothing on this earth should ever be equated with God.

There will be days in your life when love feels like a comfy recliner and other days when it feels like you're walking on glass. The reason for this is because love is more than a feeling and much more than a word. It calls us to a place of humility where we sacrifice our pride.

In *The Four Loves*, C. S. Lewis writes, "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."

Agape is the best example of this because of the sacrifices it makes. It mirrors the love that God has for the church—an undeserved love that's given freely.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

If someone has to earn love, it isn't love at all, but rather payment. It's not a barter system where you give as much as you get, and it doesn't keep score.

It's important to note that the greatest commandment is love. Master this commandment, and you master them all.

Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." – Matthew 22:36-40

You are loved by an almighty God,

Darlene Schacht
The Time-Warp Wife
www.timewarpwife.com

————— *How to Use This Study* —————

Part 1 – Scratching the Surface

I've provided you with weekly reading schedules for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On these days, you'll read the assigned portion of scripture and write down your thoughts as they pertain to love.

Ask yourself these kinds of questions:

- What is the main concept, or what is God telling me here?
- How can I apply this to the way that I love others?
- Is there sin I need to examine?

Part 2 – Digging Deep into the Word

On the alternate days I want us to take a step deeper and dig into the Word.

Here are a few ways to do that:

- Look up the scripture in a commentary like *Matthew Henry's* or grab a different translation, and read it again. Is there anything that you missed the first time?
- Research the characters online. What else can you learn about them?
- Look for other verses in the Bible that talk about the same kind of love. What can you learn from them?
- Cross reference key verses that stand out to you. You can cross reference any verse online at: <http://www.openbible.info/labs/cross-references/>
- Look for life application principles. Ask yourself how you can improve in this area.
- Use the Blue Letter Bible at <http://www.blueletterbible.org> where you'll

find interlinear Greek and Hebrew translations, as well as other awesome Bible study tools.

Part 3 – Quieting Your Heart

I believe that prayer is essential part of studying the Bible. At the end of each day you'll see a reminder to grab your journal and quiet your heart.

A journal can be anything from a piece of paper to a pretty little book you pick up at the mall. It's a daily prayer journal that gets you into the habit of writing your prayer down in a book.

Others prefer to use the ***Quieting Your Heart Journal: Love Edition*** available at Amazon.com. It's a pretty little journal with images that you can color and scripture that you can meditate on.

Part 4 - Encouragement

Visit my blog each week where I'll share encouraging thoughts on the topic as we go through this study.

You can find my blog at: <http://www.timewarpmwife.com>

Part 5 – Fellowship

If you're on Facebook, you can find other members in our group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/biblejournalingonline>

On Instagram, look for the hashtag #drawingcloser

Week 1 - Storge

*What can you do to promote world peace?
Go home and love your family.
Mother Teresa*

Storge is defined as natural affection. It's the love you see between family members, and can also be found between friends that you love as though they were your own family.

Storge love is also used to describe the affection that animals have for their young and puppies have for their owners. Mama bears naturally protect, and dogs are affectionate to their pups.

Other than the compound word, translated as "kindly affectioned" (Romans 12:10), the word itself isn't found in the Bible, but many stories illustrate this kind of love between family members.

We see this throughout the Bible in stories like Noah and his wife who took their children into the ark. We see Mary and Martha who loved their brother Lazarus, we see Mordecai who adopted his niece Esther, and raised her from the time she was a child.

This love should come naturally, and normally does, but circumstances can dictate otherwise. A child who is mistreated may lose respect for their parents, and in some cases relationships are severed.

We must take the scripture to heart that tells us, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." – Ephesians 6:4

As children, regardless of what age we might be, we need to honor our parents as the scripture commands.

As you read through the scripture this week take note of the good and the bad.

When we read about bad behavior in scripture we learn about our own selfish desires.

Maybe our selfish desires aren't as horrendous as others, but we all have bad behavior that can be improved upon when we're willing to examine our heart and allow God to change us.

MONDAY

Read Exodus 2:1-8 – “Moses and His Mother”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

TUESDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Kings 3:16-28 – “A Desperate Mother”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

THURSDAY:

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

FRIDAY:

Read Ruth 1:3-17 – “Naomi and Ruth”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

SATURDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

Week 2 - Philia

*Friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life.
Many might have failed beneath the bitterness of
their trial had they not found a friend.
Charles Spurgeon*

C.S. Lewis writes, “Friendship arises out of mere companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure (or burden). The typical expression of opening friendship would be something like, “What? You too? I thought I was the only one.”

One of the beautiful thing about the bond of friendship is that it gives us an opportunity to sharpen each other in love.

*Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. –
Proverbs 27:17*

We see this in scripture where Jesus gently corrected Martha (Luke 10:41), and another instance where sternly corrected Peter (Matthew 16:23).

It’s been said that “people don’t care what you know until they know that you care.” Since friendship is built by two caring people, it gives us that opportunity to grow and to heal as we share each other’s burdens.

One of the most beautiful things two people can do is to study the Bible together. It always warms my heart when I hear about moms getting together to read the Bible or men getting together to pray. Church gives us an opportunity to do this, but friendships within the church even more so.

While we must be friendly to all, it’s important to have close friends that we know will strengthen us spiritually.

A good friend won't tickle your ear with flattering words. They'll have your best interest at heart. Good friends will pray with you, they'll encourage you, and they'll share truth with you when you need to hear it the most.

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

If you don't have outside friendships, don't lose heart. You're not alone in this--some have them, and some don't.

It's interesting to note that most people treat their friends more politely than they do their own family members. When you're friendly to someone you give them your full attention. They get eye contact. You're on your best behavior. You make an effort to be kind, to smile, and to give them your best when you're with them.

You might put on your best outfit when you go out for lunch. You might laugh at all of their jokes, and treat them with the utmost respect. Manners are in check as well as your tongue.

That's a good thing, but let's examine our hearts to ensure that we're being friendly to our family as well.

Titus 2:4 says, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children."

Both times the word *love* appears in that verse, we find a compound word prefixed with *philos*. (*philandros* and *philoteknos*).

What that says to me is that we need to be friendly behind closed doors.

Take the opportunity to cultivate friendships within the relationships you already have. For example, you can be friendly to your mother-in-law, the person next door, your husband, your children, the people at church.

MONDAY

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5, 19:1-7 – “David and Jonathan”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

TUESDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

WEDNESDAY

Read Job 2:1-13 Compare with Job 22:5-11 - “Job and His Friends”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

THURSDAY:

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

FRIDAY:

Read 2 Samuel 15:13-23 – “David and Ittai the Gittite”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

SATURDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

Week 3 - Eros

*We must do the works of Eros
when Eros is not present.
This all good lovers know.
C. S. Lewis*

Eros is a romantic love, otherwise known as “being in love.” The word Eros itself isn’t found in the Bible, but romantic love and passion are.

Eros creates a passion that longs to be filled, which is why it’s sometimes described as a self-centered love. It’s butterflies in the stomach. It’s a longing to have the object of your affection.

As you’ll discover in this week’s study. Men (and women) have gone to great lengths to obtain the object of their affection.

The heart wants what the heart wants, which can be treacherous at times. Jeremiah 17:9 warns, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” And yet so often, people follow their heart, ignoring the will of the Lord.

We see this all the time in our society as people are having secret affairs, stepping out of their marriages because they’ve discovered new love, or having an open relationship with their spouse so that they might both satisfy their desire for lust.

Eros is dangerous when we honor it unconditionally or without reverence to God. In *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis describes how lovers idolize eros and give love a law of its own.

They will seem like proofs of piety and zeal toward Eros. The pair can say to one another in an almost sacrificial spirit, “It is for love’s sake that I have neglected my parents—left my children—cheated my partner—failed my friend at his greatest need.” These reasons in love’s law have passed for good.

We can't have anyone that we want. But when we love within the parameters of God's will, eros is a beautiful expression of love.

When we fall in love with another person, we have every expectation and every intention of staying in love. We can't imagine not being in love. But the thing is that the euphoria of eros is often short-lived.

We might start to wonder if we fell out of love. Where did the passion and the excitement go? Why don't I have the same sweaty palms that I used to? Maybe you still do, but more than likely your love has evolved over time.

Take heart. This doesn't mean that your marriage is suffering in some way. It doesn't mean that you've lost the spark you once had, or that you're not attracted to one another. It simply means that eros has done its job, you've moved on to a new stage in your relationship.

A strong marriage has plenty to stand on, and it will stand strong through the years if you continue to love as God loves. There's more to marriage than eros could ever bring to the table. Unfortunately, some couples don't truly understand this until they take their last breath.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 29:15-30 – “Jacob’s Passion for Rachel”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

TUESDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

[illegible]

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

WEDNESDAY

Read 2 Samuel 11:2-16 - “David and Bathsheba”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

THURSDAY:

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

FRIDAY:

Read 1 Samuel 1:1-20 – “Hannah and Elkanah”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

SATURDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

Week 4 - Agape

*There must be a stronger foundation than mere
friendship or sexual attraction.
Unconditional love, agape love, will not be swayed
by time or circumstances.
Stephen Kendrick, The Love Dare*

Imagine you go out on a Saturday afternoon and buy the most awesome car you've ever laid eyes on. This is the car of your dreams—the one you've been saving your entire life for. After driving it off the lot, you see one, then another, and another... soon you realize that every single car on the road is identical to yours. They're free to anyone who walks through the door.

Suddenly, the excitement is gone. Why? Because man has a natural desire to be recognized for who he is, and loved for what he's accomplished.

To the wretched man who can't afford a car? To him this gift is everything.

We work hard, we achieve. We're good looking, we get dates. We're friendly, we have friends. We have money, we can buy. We're loving, we're loved back.

Logic tells us that love is earned, God tells us that it's a gift.

In the parable of the prodigal son we read about a young man who asked his father for his share of the estate. He traveled off to a far land where he squandered his inheritance. Long story short, he left full and returned empty.

With nothing to offer his Father but the rags on his back, he made his way home. And what did the Father do when he saw him coming down the road?

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”

But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” So they began to celebrate. – Luke 15:20-24

Naturally the older brother was angry. This didn’t make sense to him. He stood by his father working all of those years, while his brother was gone.

Agape doesn’t make sense. It’s foolishness to the self righteous. It goes against our desire to be recognized for what we’ve done and loved for who we are. But to the sinner who understands the depth of his sin, it’s everything.

Agape reflects the unconditional love of God.

If we love others expecting a reward, payback, or response, we’ll be met with disappointment time and again.

One of the biggest mistakes we can make is to expect a reward for our love, or to measure the success of our efforts by another’s response. Jesus loved us. What He got in return was rejection that led to his death.

Love has no reward in and of itself, for every perfect gift comes from the Father.

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. – Colossians 3:23-24

We’re not here to serve man. We’re here to serve God. We love because He first loved us. When that’s our only motive and incentive agape love makes sense.

MONDAY

Read John 21:7-19 – “Jesus Questions Peter”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

TUESDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 – “The Love Chapter”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

THURSDAY:

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

FRIDAY:

Read Isaiah 53:1-12 – “The Greatest Love Story of All”

What is the main concept, or what is God telling you?

How can you apply this to the way you love others?

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.

SATURDAY

Start Digging

Refer to the section “How to Use This Study Guide” and start digging deeper.

Have you learned anything new?

[illegible]

Quiet Your Heart

If you have a “Quieting Your Heart Prayer Journal” don’t forget to fill it in, as you spend quiet time in prayer.