

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Title:** God's Love: 'With' as a 'For'

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**Text:** Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 15:20-24; John 14:15-21

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## WARM-UP

We tend to admire, depend on, and form close bonds with people who are "with" us and "for" us. In other words, we grant significant influence to those that are intimately close and clearly have our best interests in mind. Share a time where one of those two things (with or for) was compromised in a relationship and what led to that compromise. How might this connect to how you extend love to others?

## DISCUSSION

This week, three scriptural portraits were explored as examples for how God shows His love by being "with" us as One who is "for" us: Jesus healing the leper (Matthew 8:1-4), The Prodigal Father receiving his son (Luke 15:20-24), and the Holy Spirit being promised (John 14:15-12).

1. Which one of the examples above most resonates as an example of God's love in your life? Why?
2. Which one of the above examples could be more fully realized in your life? Why?
3. What other examples in Scripture reflect the principle that God's love is demonstrated by how He is faithfully "with" us and consistently "for" us?
4. What could you or your group do to focus on one example of God's love in your life this week? If you chose to remember this every day, what might that enable in your life?
5. Identify one person in your life that you could extend the same kind of love to. How will you be "with" as one who is "for" them?

Prayer:

1. Father, I praise You for the ways in which You been "with" us as One who is "for" us... (insert specifics)
2. Holy Spirit direct me to people in my life so I can multiply Your love to them. Listen for who comes to mind and pray for them.