

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

It's a New Day
Jeremiah 31:27-34

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

As you prepare for this week's lesson take time to smell the roses. Slow down and notice God's handiwork around you. Let God give you inspiration from observing His creation and reading His Word. Even though death is always around us so is the truth of God's ability to renew us.

Be sure to have the Youth Bible Study sheet copied for every youth in attendance.

Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found), *The Worship Hymnal* #506; CCLI #3350395

My Life Is in You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #518; CCLI #17315

I Love You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #555; CCLI #25266

Oh, How I Love Jesus, *The Worship Hymnal* #560; CCLI #28606 Public Domain

Change My Heart, O God, *The Worship Hymnal* #529; CCLI #1565

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

It's a New Day

Focal Text

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Background

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Main Idea

Through God's new covenant, people can experience God in an intimate, personal, committed relationship in which their sins have been forgiven.

Question to Explore

How can life be made new again?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to summarize the meaning and implications for their lives of God's offer of a new covenant.

Gathering together:

Sing:

In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found), *The Worship Hymnal* #506; CCLI #3350395

My Life Is in You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #518; CCLI #17315

First thoughts:

Through It All

I've had many tears and sorrows,
I've had questions for tomorrow,
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong:
But in every situation God gave blessed consolation
That my trials come to only make me strong.
Through it all, through it all,

I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God;
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon His Word.

Andre Crouch, **Through It All**, CCLI#18211, Copyright 1971 Manna Music (Admin. By ClearBox Rights, LLC)

These studies in Jeremiah have all been about faith or faithlessness. Through Jeremiah God was calling Judah to listen and have faith in Him when reality seemed to point them elsewhere. What Jeremiah was prophesying for God just did not make logical sense.

Reading through Hebrews chapter 11 will give you illustration after illustration of people who followed God by faith and not by sight. Hebrews 11:1, ***Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.***

The question keeps coming over and over. Faith or unfaithfulness. It's up to you with help available.

Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, has a picture in his office, showing a turtle sitting atop a fence. The Picture is there to remind him of a lesson he learned long ago: "If you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had some help." Says Alex, "Any time I start thinking, Wow, isn't this marvelous what I've done! I look at that picture and remember how this turtle – me – got up on that post." (Johnson, John M. *Moral Makeover: Reshaping the Meltdown With the Wisdom of Solomon!* www.xulonpress.com. 2008, page 50)

Judah did not listen to God. They had help in Jeremiah and rejected it. Help is available for you in God's Word and His Spirit, and His Son. Just as God pursued the Israelites for thousands of years so He has pursued you. You can continue to sin and be cursed or you can obey and be blessed. The choice is yours.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Pray: Lord, I would not be where I am today if it had not been for you.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

It's a New Day

Focal Text

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Background

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Main Idea

Through God's new covenant, people can experience God in an intimate, personal, committed relationship in which their sins have been forgiven.

Question to Explore

How can life be made new again?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to summarize the meaning and implications for their lives of God's offer of a new covenant.

Introduction to your personal study:

The passage to be studied today comes amid a dark hour for Judah. She stands poised to be destroyed by Babylon. Most of the population of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity. The city walls will be torn down. Burning and pillaging of the city will take place. As all this chaos descends upon Judah Jeremiah stands and brings words of hope from God. Even though Israel had repeatedly broken the Old Covenant He is going to write a New Covenant on their hearts.

God's message, proclaimed by Jeremiah, tells the people a remnant will survive and return. God will replant and rebuild Israel. Just as He had been watching over Judah before their captivity so He will continue to watch over their return.

This lesson is about God who does not wink at sin. Each sinner will face the consequences of his own actions. He will be judged. But, with judgment comes mercy. God will forgive their sin and remember it no more. God will restore an intimate relationship with Israel.

The Broadman Commentary, Volume 6, calls this passage the noblest of Jeremiah's prophecies. It is "The Gospel before the Gospel". It is the earliest and closest approach to the New Testament faith found in the Old Testament. It represents what may be the high point of Jeremiah's theology. (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1971, page 152).

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the "**Introduction**" article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Focusing on the Meaning:

God will be manifested in a new Law, a new power, and a new family. There will be a new covenant, and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and a new family - brother Christians.

Jeremiah 31:27-34

I. Reversing the Past (vs. 27-28).

27 "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. 28 Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant." declares the Lord.

"The days are coming" is a pronouncement of God which points ahead to a better day for Israel. Reading further in Scripture will take one to the fulfillment of this prophecy some 70 years in the future and also to the end of time when a new heaven and earth are created.

Also notice in these verses and in v. 35 the phrase ***"declares the Lord"***. It literally means "whisper of Yahweh". God whispers His Word to Jeremiah who sounds it forth to Judah and through the means of Holy Scripture it comes down to us today. This is similar to the ***"still small voice"*** Elijah heard after forty days of fasting. Here it occurs amid this particular life situation when the Jews are faced with the collapse of the Old Covenant which they had broken so many times.

Notice the seven “infinitives” found in these verses—to uproot, to tear down, to overthrow, to destroy, to bring disaster—are negatives. To build, and to plant are positives. These seven statements summarize the entire book.

This oracle is an intimate authoritative word from God. God is sovereign. Each occurrence is followed by an action. God says, “I will”

The fact that God is watching over Judah is also a theme that is carried forward from the first proclamation in chapter 1.

God always has His remnant. A remnant is a small remaining quantity such as a piece of cloth left when the greater part has been used or sold. It is a surviving trace. In Biblical terms it refers to the righteous, obedient group preserved by God to fulfil His plans and promises. God is never without those who are obedient. It is with those who choose to be obedient that He can start over. He knows who belongs to Him.

II. Beginning Anew (vs. 29-32).

29 “in those days people will no longer say, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ 30 Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes---their own teeth will be set on edge.” 31 “The days are coming.” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

In verse 31 we find the only reference to a new covenant in the Old Testament. J.A. Thompson wrote “it represents one of the deepest insights in the whole Old Testament” (**The Book of Jeremiah**, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980, page 580). It looks forward to fulfillment with the emergence of the New Testament church. God’s Spirit will then dwell within the believer. The people of Judah were playing the blame game. They were saying that the judgment falling upon them was not fair. Calling upon an old proverb they blamed their parents for the predicament in which they found themselves. (See Ezekiel 18:1-4.) They failed to realize that each generation is responsible for their own sins.

“The days are coming” is declared by God to give the people hope. What they were experiencing at the moment would be changed when God makes a new covenant with Israel.

The new covenant that God was going to make with them would nullify their excuses. The new covenant will hold each individual accountable for his/her own sins.

III. A New Way of Knowing God (vs. 33-34a).

33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time.” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

Stone tablets can be crushed. Scrolls can be destroyed. But, the Word of God written on the hearts and minds of men cannot be erased by human hands.

A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties in which obligations are placed on one or both. In the case of the Old Covenant it was between partners of unequal power in which the stronger obligated himself for the benefit of the weaker. The weaker did not have reciprocal demands (F. B. Huey, Jr. **The New American Commentary, Jeremiah/Lamentations**, Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993, page 281).

A covenant often exhibits a difference from a common agreement by being written in a style that is expressed in “If – Then” statements. For instance, a covenant may state or imply “If you will do this thing, then I will do that thing”.

The old covenant with its basis in the Ten Commandments could not change the character of Israel. It could only direct their conduct. Therefore, a renewal of the old covenant was not the answer. It had been in use for centuries without lasting effect.

The new covenant did not give a blank check allowing sin to continue. It makes clear that there will still be consequences for sin. Each person would be accountable to God for his/her own sin. This is a new doctrine of individual responsibility not heretofore seen.

The new covenant does not deny the fact that the sin of one generation affects the next. Only God through His forgiveness is able to break the continuity between past and present sins. God is sovereign.

Concluding remarks (34b).

How does a sinner enter into fellowship with God? It can only happen because God will forgive him. **“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”** At this point in Scripture it does not tell the reader how God intends to do it. But, it will be divine mercy and grace that institutes it.

When God forgives sin He forgets that sin. If God does that then it stands to reason that we ought to also. We must forgive and forget past wrongs; that can only be done by God’s grace in our lives.

The ultimate consequence is sounded by Paul to the Corinthian church. **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.”** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

Jeremiah's brutal frankness in declaring God's plans for His people may tend to overwhelm the positive message of the book. Your challenge as the leader of this final session on Jeremiah is to lead the church to recognize the necessity of the unfolding events for the ultimate redemption of Judah and Israel.

More importantly, guide your group to see that, through God's new covenant, written on our hearts, they can experience God in an intimate, personal, and committed relationship in which their (and our) sins have been forgiven.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

It's a New Day

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Background

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Main Idea

Through God's new covenant, people can experience God in an intimate, personal, committed relationship in which their sins have been forgiven.

Question to Explore

How can life be made new again?

Teaching Aim

To lead the church to summarize the meaning and implications for their lives of God's offer of a new covenant.

Connect with Life:

Share: One of the most beautiful scenes God paints anew every day is a sunrise. A sunrise signals a new day with opportunities and challenges. There is hope in the renewal of each new day.

Guide the Study:

Tell the group: The passage to be studied today comes amid a dark hour for Judah. She stands poised to be destroyed by Babylon. Most of the population of Jerusalem will be taken into captivity. The city walls will be torn down. Burning and pillaging of the city will take place. As all this chaos descends upon Judah, Jeremiah stands and brings words of hope from God. Even though Israel had repeatedly broken the Old Covenant, God is going to write a New Covenant on their hearts.

His message, proclaimed by Jeremiah, tells the people a remnant will survive and return. God will replant and rebuild Israel. Just as He had been watching over Judah before their captivity so He will continue to watch over their return.

I. Reversing the Past (Jeremiah 31: 27-28).

Have a volunteer read the passage.

Ask: Is it possible to start over again? (Remember Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again (John 3:3).

Comment to them: "The days are coming" is a declaration that God will restore Israel and Judah, the northern and southern nations which, at that time, formed the former united Israel.

Say: In the future of Israel and Judah there will be a "beginning again".

Tell them: The phrase "declares the Lord" literally means "whisper of Yahweh." Just as with Elijah God speaks softly. He whispers in their ears while the battle rages loudly around them.

Now comment: Are you ever quiet enough to hear the still small voice of God? There are times when one needs to quit talking and begin listening.

II. Beginning Anew (vs. 29-32).

Have a volunteer read the passage.

Inform the group: The only reference to a New Covenant in the Old Testament is found in verse 31. J.A. Thompson wrote "it represents one of the deepest insights in the whole Old Testament. It looks forward to fulfillment with the emergence of the New Testament church. God's Spirit will then dwell with the believer." Then the promise of a covenant being written on man's heart will be fulfilled. (See the Teacher Preparation for the reference).

Ask: If you had the opportunity to begin anew, what would you change? (Allow time for responses.)

Ask: Who do you blame when things do not go right in your life? Israel and Judah blamed their parents and ancestors. They got them into the mess.

Say: We live in a day when many people want to blame others rather than take responsibility for their own mistakes.

Make sure the group understands verse 30. "Everyone will die for their own sin".

Remind them: The offer of forgiveness for sin given to Judah is the same offer given to you and me today. **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord** (Romans 6:23).

Place this key question before the group: Would you like to have that gift?

III. A New Way of Knowing God (vs. 33-34a).

Call upon someone to read the passage.

Have someone explain what will be the new way of knowing God.

Explain to the group what a covenant is: A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties in which obligations are placed on one or both. In the case of the Old Covenant it was between partners of unequal power in which the stronger obligated himself for the benefit of the weaker.

Encourage responses: Have you ever entered into a covenant with someone? If so, what did you covenant? (They may think of their marriage vows or something similar).

Look for an answer to this: What was the foundation for the Law of the Old Covenant? (The Ten Commandments)

Moses and others would say of those commandments, "If you continue to keep those laws of God and teach them to future generations, you will live long in the land God is giving you and prosper." (many references in the Books of the Law).

Then ask: Where was the New Covenant be written? (On the hearts of individual persons)

Question: Did the Old Covenant based on the Ten Commandments change Israel's character? (No) Did it change Israel's conduct? (Yes)

Remind the group. The Old Covenant was designed to change the conduct of Israel but not their character. Character transformation would be addressed with the New Covenant. There would be consequences for each one personally for their sins.

Ask: Did the New Covenant give a blank check allowing sin to continue? (Absolutely not!)

Briefly discuss: But when a believer does sin, how, then, will sin be forgiven? (Each person will have to ask for forgiveness based upon the blood of Christ at the cross of Calvary).

Remind the group of the main idea of this study. Through God's New Covenant people can experience God in an intimate, personal, committed relationship in which their sins have been forgiven.

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Important question for all to consider. Have you asked for Christ's forgiveness based upon the atoning blood of the cross?

Finally add: If you have, are you helping others to welcome God's forgiveness and salvation?

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

YOUTH!!! TAKE TEN

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

It's a New Day Jeremiah 31:27-34

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Ask for a copy of this activity for each youth present.

It's a New Day, Now What?

Think about this idea: "It's a New Day" A new day is like a deposit in a bank. The question is how will you spend this day?

Ask yourselves: What are you planning to do this day? Take a moment to think and share.

Consider: Does every day turn out as you would like it to?

Question each other: What do you do when your day goes wrong?

Think: Do you ever ask God for help when your day is going wrong?

Question yourself: Do you believe that God wants you to have a better day? Can He turn the dark clouds of despair into a bright and shiny day?

Remember this: With God in control of your life your future will always be brighter.

Pray: Dear Lord. Help us when we are discouraged. May we awake each day knowing that you are in charge. I place my life in your hands. Amen.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)**Love Expressed**
John 14:18-24**Beginning the Service:**

Quickly make any important announcements.

Ask someone to lead in prayer thanking God for His Presence in the service.

Sing:

I Love You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #555; CCLI #25266

Oh, How I Love Jesus, *The Worship Hymnal* #560; CCLI #28606 Public Domain

Offering:

Giving God an offering does not enhance God's treasury. It is an expression of faith on the part of a believer. It says to God, I know that what I have left will be enough to see me through because You will bless it.

Praying for the World:

Pray for countries which are experiencing many people coming to Christ even though government authorities make this difficult. Pray for safety for Christian believers as they share their faith with others.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Love Expressed

Read or interpreted by the Worship Leader:

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to His creation, particularly to human beings. In creating human beings God desired to have fellowship with humans. That fellowship was broken by sin in the Garden of Eden. Since that time He has sought to provide ways for that fellowship to be restored culminating in the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

In your study of the book of Jeremiah you have been given a glimpse of God as He wooed the people of Judah attempting to get them to repent and turn back to Him. His desire always is to bless and not curse, but for blessings to occur people must repent, confess, turn from their sins and obey Him.

As you look at the passage from the New Testament you will see that principle still remains in place. Obey and be blessed. Disobey and be cursed. Obey and be loved. Disobey and suffer the absence of God's love.

It seems appropriate to end this study of Jeremiah with a message on God's love.

Love is an action verb. In Scriptures love is revealed by the actions of God and man's responses. It is seen in the behavior of God and the behavior of man. This passage was spoken by Jesus as part of the encouragement He gave His followers.

Jesus did not come into the world as a spectator to gain knowledge of how man lived. He came and lived and died as a man in order to show man the way to His Father. As He prepared to be crucified His focus was upon others. His was "Love Expressed" and in response love should be expressed to Him.

John 14:18-24

18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

22. Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

I. Love Expressed Through God's Presence. "I will not leave you as orphans". (vs. 18-20).

GOD PICKS THE UNLOVABLE ONES Anne Lamott described a time when a fellow church member told about adopting her son through an organization called A.S.K. -- Adopt Special Kids.

Part of the adoption process included filling out a questionnaire checking "yes" or "no" for one's willingness to adopt babies that had been born addicted, disabled or terminally ill. The couple had checked down the list.

Their pastor was helping them to work through the process, and he later told their church that God, too, is like an adoptive parent who says, "Sure, I'll take the kids who are addicted or terminal. I pick all the handicapped kids. And of course the sadists, too, the selfish one, the liars, -- I choose them.

I choose the disobedient ones and the terrified ones, the self-indulged ones and the trouble-makers, the damaged ones and the unlovable ones. In love, I choose them all. I will be a parent to them all. I will end their separation and bring them home to me."

That is the power of the cross of Jesus Christ! (From a sermon by Rick Crandall, Go Tell Your World, 5/25/2011)

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

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

When you and I had the stench of sin upon our lives, Christ died for us. By His death we are adopted into His family. You cannot be unadopted.

II. Love Expressed Through Obedience. (v. 21)

ON OBEDIENCE "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me."

Love is like a two way street or two sides of the same coin. God loves us and by our obedience we show our love to Him.

"One word stands out from all others as the key to knowing God, to having His peace and assurance in your life--it is obedience." (Eric Liddell) (From a sermon by Gordon Curley, **In His Father's Footsteps**, www.SermonCentral.com, 11/18/2010).

Elisabeth Elliot tells the story of when she and her brother Tom were small children. Their mother would let Tom play with paper bags that she had saved as long as he put them away afterwards. One day she walked into the kitchen to find them strewn all over the floor.

Tom was in another room at the piano with his father singing hymns. When their mother called him to the kitchen to tidy up, he protested, "But Mum, I want to sing 'Jesus loves me this I know.'"

His father, seated next to him, backed up the boys' mother by saying: "It's no good singing God's praise if you're disobedient. To obey is better than sacrifice."

(From a sermon by Gordon Curley, **In His Father's Footsteps**, www.SermonCentral.com, 11/18/2010)

In order to obey one must know what it is to obey. You must have the commands. Those are found in the Word of God. The Psalmist knew this.

Psalm 119:11 (KJV)

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. You must know the Word of God in your head and stow (keep) it in your heart before you can sow it in the world.

III. Love Not Expressed Through Disobedience. (vs. 22-24).

Those who are disobedient will not love God nor will they be loved by God. He loves them and seeks them, but they must love Him to be saved.

A little girl came running into the house to her mother, exclaiming: "Mamma, I love you!" The mother replied: "I am so glad you love me. I have had a hard day, and I am so tired. If you love me so much, will you wash the dishes for me?"

The little girl replied: "I do love you, mother, but not in that way."

How many there are today who say that they love God, but when Jesus says, ***"If ye love Me, keep My commandments,"*** they say in actions, if not in words, "I love you, Lord, but not in that way."—Unknown

Conclusion.

If you want the love of God in your heart and life then you must be willing to obediently give your life to Him. Which will your life express? Will it be obedience or disobedience?

Call to Commitment:

God has expressed His love by sending His Son to die for All the sins of mankind. It is time for a decision to be made. Will you accept God's offer of His Son for the forgiveness of your sin?

Concluding the Service:

Pray that the message of love will be expressed in the lives of each of the hearers.

Sing: **Change My Heart, O God**, *The Worship Hymnal* #529; CCLI #1565