

WHAT DOES LOVE DO?

Living the Way of Love during Pandemic



In every season of life and every situation — especially in times of crisis, uncertainty, and loss — we return to Jesus and his Way of Love in order to stay centered on God and live with hope, compassion, and wisdom. The principles and practices below may help you to follow the Way of Love in the difficult days we now face.

What Does Love Do?

In John 21, Jesus comes alongside Peter and asks, “Do you love me more than these?” Peter insists, “Lord, you know that I do.” Jesus then tells him what love does. Love feeds all who are hungry and tends the neighbor’s pain. Love calls us to take care and take risks. Love allows us to fail and rise up with grace. Love invites us to be in love with God and to follow Jesus. Regularly ask yourself, “*What does love do?*” In every situation, how do you or could you practice Jesus’s Way of Love – Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest?

Inspire All, Imperil None

Followers of Jesus seek to do that which inspires people to love God, our neighbors, ourselves, and the earth. If one path imperils you or others and the other is more life-giving (even if it is more costly), the Spirit guides us toward life.

Walk Together

Make the most of limits on public gatherings by meeting in small circles – either online or with those who share your home. The early church had it right: intentional small groups are essential as we seek to pray, study scripture, reflect, worship, love, and grow as disciples of Jesus.

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Love **TURNS**

Love chooses to turn and trust in God, who grants us freedom in the midst of adversity, uncertainty, selfishness, and fear.

Love **LEARNS**

Love seeks guidance from the life and teachings of Jesus and notices God's story unfolding in the world around us.

Love **PRAYS**

Love offers up concerns, thanksgivings, and intercessions, and listens for the voice of God in every situation and season of life.

Love **WORSHIPS**

Love gathers with community to pray, sing, replenish strength, and celebrate the goodness of God wherever possible — online, in homes, in small groups, in creation, and in congregations.

Love **BLESSES**

Love practices generosity and compassion rather than scarcity and division, unselfishly sharing whatever we have: our faith, our care, our stories, our resources, and our time.

Love **GOES**

Love stands in solidarity with the most vulnerable and oppressed, sacrificing ease and seeking the other's well-being.

Love **RESTS**

Love trusts in God's gracious call to rest, releasing control into the hands of the One who abides and will not let us go.