

# North Weekly Devotional

By Jo Grey

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**Song:** [O Love That Will Not Let Me Go](#)

**Prayer:** Father, strengthen us by Your Spirit to make Christ at home in our hearts and to grasp more of the truth and extravagance of Your love.

**Text:** Ephesians 2:4-7 (Please read aloud.)

## **Explanation:**

Do you remember this simple chorus you learned in Sunday School as a preschooler?

“Thank Him, thank Him,  
all you little children!  
God is love; God is love.”

We may grow up, but we’ll never outgrow the need to thank God for His LOVE that won’t let us go. Since this is Thanksgiving week, let’s use Paul’s message in Ephesians to consider the ways God’s LOVE reaches us and let thanksgiving arise in our hearts.

**L** – Look outside yourself to the cross of Christ to see how much God loves you.

**O** – Offer thanksgiving every day for God’s gift of salvation.

**V** – Visualize handing your stinking load of sin to Jesus on the cross as He hands you His royal robe of righteousness.

**E** – Expect a continual display of God’s grace and kindness going on forever and ever.

**The Point:** Never underestimate God’s great love for you in Christ.

## **Application:**

**Pre-K and Elementary Age:** Everyone sing, “Jesus Loves Me,” and create some hand motions. Ask, “How do we know Jesus loves us?” For the Bible tells us so! Make a simple line drawing of the Bible (a rectangular book shape) and include a heart for the children to color. Share some hugs!

**Middle and High School Students:** Are you convinced God loves you? His love isn't fickle like the world's, and He will never "unfriend" you, because His love never depends on your performance. You cannot love Him as He deserves even on your best day, but God didn't wait for you to get your act together, did He? Instead, He acted FOR you. Remember John 3:16?

"For God so loved the world (including you) that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

You're probably not thinking about eternity right now, but God thinks of you every minute and He sees you when you feel like no one notices you. He gives trustworthy advice through His Word, unlike what you may hear from peers. Since God has solved your sin problem in real time and space, do yourself a favor. Believe Him, trust Him, thank Him.

**Young Adult:** So many choices in your life now. Big decisions about the present or the future may at times overwhelm. Added to those macro decisions about vocation, relationships, education, and finances are the endless micro choices related to eating, shopping, music, movies, social media, fitness, and which mask to wear (or not) just to name a few. Dizzying, isn't it? Above all, one decision is paramount. How will you respond to God's glorious invitation to come to Him in faith? Whether you need saving faith or faith for following Him more closely, He is the source, the initiator, the Giver of every good and perfect gift. His most perfect Gift is Jesus. Believe His Word. Thank Him. Bow before His love.

**Adult:** After several decades of living, God's attribute of mercy may mean more to you than it did in your teens or twenties. You see ways you've blown it with family, co-workers, and God. Things could be a lot worse, but you know they would be better if ego, pride, unforgiveness, anger, resentment, or ordinary complaining had been put away quicker. You know the truth about that "sin which clings so closely," and be assured, it's not too late for confession. But God, who is rich in mercy, is not the least bit stingy with His mercy or love for you. Aren't you glad? Spend time each morning thanking God for His faithfulness and mercies toward you and your family.

**Empty Nester:** At this stage of life, you may feel anxiety about the "what-ifs" and the "if-onlys." In both cases, your rocking chair of worry isn't getting you where you want to go. Even in the age of instant replay, do-overs in life aren't doable. Given your original sin nature, perfection was never an option even in the good old days, and Almighty God still isn't asking your advice about future days. However, will you surrender your regrets about the past and turn over your fears about the future to your faithful, merciful God? His peace will come. You can count on it, along with His mercy, His love, and His presence in every circumstance. Just thank Him and go do the next good thing.

**Song:** [\*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross\*](#)

**Prayer:** You can do abundantly more than we can ask or even imagine. Work in us by the gentle, persistent action of Your Spirit so that we can choose to love our families, friends, and

people different from us with Your kind of love. To You be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations!