

November 30, 2003

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Next Weeks Lesson: "He That Overcometh Shall Inherit All Things" ([Revelation 1-3](#); [Revelation 12](#))

Today's Lesson: "God Is Love" ([1 John](#), [2 John](#), and [3 John](#))

1. Manifestations of Heavenly Father's love for us.

- A. If you were to use one word to describe Heavenly Father, what would it be? What word did John use to describe Heavenly Father in [1 John 4:8](#), [1 John 4:16](#)? Why is this an appropriate word?
- B. Read [1 John 3:1-2](#). What manifestation of God's love did John mention in these verses? (God will call us his sons and make us like Christ—glorified, exalted, and joint-heirs with him; see also [Romans 8:14-17](#).) What must we do to be called the sons of God? (See [1 John 2:28-29](#); [1 John 4:7](#); [1 John 5:1](#); [Galatians 3:26-27](#); [Mosiah 5:5-9](#); [Moroni 7:48](#). While all of us are spirit children of God, the use of the words "sons of God" in [1 John 3:1-2](#) refers to those who take upon themselves the name of Christ through baptism and honor his name through faith and righteousness.)
- C. Read [1 John 4:9-10](#). What manifestation of God's love did John mention in these verses? (See also [John 3:16](#); [1 John 5:11](#); [2 Nephi 9:10](#). The word *propitiation* in [1 John 4:10](#) refers to the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.) How does sending his Son to atone for our sins manifest Heavenly Father's love for us?
- D. Read [1 John 4:13](#). What manifestation of God's love did John mention in this verse? How has the Spirit been an important gift in your life?
- E. John taught that Heavenly Father will answer our prayers if we ask according to His will ([1 John 5:14-15](#)). How has prayer helped you feel Heavenly Father's love? Why is prayer essential for us to become like our Father in Heaven?
- F. John taught that "we love [God], because he first loved us" ([1 John 4:19](#)). What are some of the ways God has shown his love for you? How do you feel when you consider the ways God has shown his love for you?



President Thomas S. Monson said: "Our Heavenly Father's plan contains the ultimate expressions of true love. All that we hold dear—even our families, our friends, our joy, our knowledge, our testimonies—would vanish were it not for our Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. ... The world has witnessed no greater gift, nor has it known more lasting love" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1993, 77; or [Ensign, May 1993, 62-63](#)).

2. Manifestations of the Savior's love for us.

- A. Read [1 John 3:16](#). What manifestation of the Savior's love did John mention in this verse? What blessings can we receive because of the Savior's atoning sacrifice? (See [1 John 1:7-9](#); [1 John 5:11-13](#); [2 Nephi 9:11-13](#); [Alma 11:40-44](#).)
- B. Read [1 John 2:1-2](#). What manifestation of the Savior's love did John mention in these verses? What is an advocate? What does Jesus, as our advocate, do for us? (See [D&C 45:3-5](#).)
- C. John taught that the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil ([1 John 3:8](#)). How do the Savior's life and teachings destroy the devil's works?

3. Showing our love for Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and others.

- A. Read [1 John 2:3-6](#). What can we learn from these verses about how to show our love for God? (See also [John 14:15](#); [1 John 3:24](#); [1 John 5:3](#); [2 John 1:6](#).) How does obedience show our love for God?
- B. Read [2 John 1:4](#) and [3 John 1:4](#). How can our faithfulness bring joy to our Heavenly Father?
- C. Read [1 John 2:15-17](#). What can we learn from these verses about how to show our love for God? How do we sometimes show love for the world rather than love for God? How are we affected when we show love for the world? How can we overcome a love for worldly things?
- D. Read [1 John 4:7-8](#), [1 John 4:11](#). What can we learn from these verses about how to show our love for God? (See also [1 John 3:11](#), [1 John 3:23](#); [1 John 4:21](#).) How did John describe those who claim to love God but do not "love one another"? (See [1 John 2:9](#), [1 John 2:11](#); [1 John 3:14-15](#), [1 John 3:17](#); [1 John 4:20](#).) Why is our love for others a measure of our love of God? How can we come to feel and demonstrate greater love for each other? How have you been blessed by another person's love for you?
- E. What are the blessings of living in a family whose members love each other and love God? How can we help others enjoy those same blessings as part of the family of God?

Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have great love for us. We must always remember John's teachings as we strive to show our love for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and for other people.