

Exodus 10:16-19 (77). Did the king of Egypt really repent? Did Moses forgive him? Did God forgive him?

Mark 11:25 (1274). Does Jesus say we should forgive believers, or both believers and unbelievers?

Luke 23:34 (1328). This is one of only three times in the Bible where someone is clearly forgiving an unbeliever. The other two are Exodus 10 (above) and Acts 7:60.

Matthew 7:6 (1217). Why would we not forgive someone?

Luke 24:47 (1331). One thing is clear. The goal of anything we do is love is for people to \_\_\_\_\_ of their sins, \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus, and they will have full \_\_\_\_\_ of all their sins.

### **What We Should Expect**

Read John 15:19 (1356). When we love unbelievers, sometimes they won't like it. When that happens, we can take comfort in the fact that God still \_\_\_\_\_ us and that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to belong to Him.

# Exploring God's Love



*Christians Share God's Love  
With the World*

**The Bible says “We love because God loved us first”** (1 John 4:19). In our first two studies, we saw how God loved us first. In the third study, we learned how God gives believers special love for each other. How do we love unbelievers? The same or different? In this study, we will look at how God gives us love for all people.

### **Loving Christians vs. Loving Unbelievers**

Give your thoughts. Do you think loving believers and unbelievers is the same, or do we love believers one way and unbelievers another way? Why?

Ephesians 4:15-16 (p. 1469) gives one goal for Christian love. When Christians love each other, what happens? Does this happen when Christians love unbelievers?

We can have close relationships with both believers and unbelievers. Can an unbeliever be as close to us as a believer? Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (1452). Why do you think this is?

Now answer this question. How is our love for believers and unbelievers different? Pick one.

1. We love believers more than unbelievers.
2. We love them the same, but with different goals.

Is it ever okay for us to hate anything about unbelievers? Psalm 26:5 (663), Proverbs 8:13 (792), Jude 23 (1542).

### **How Do We Show Love for Unbelievers?**

The Bible shows several different ways we can show love for people who don't believe in Jesus.

1. Believers should be kind, polite, obeying the government, and ready to do good. Titus 3:1-2 (1501).
2. We show love when we speak the \_\_\_\_\_, Ephesians 4:15 (1469).
3. Read 1 Peter 3:8-9, 15-16 (1527). Verse 15 says that we should always be ready to explain our \_\_\_\_\_ in God, and our \_\_\_\_\_ should support our words. If we love unbelievers, this is how we witness to them.
4. We should even love our \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 5:38-48 (1215). We should love others without expecting them to \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 46). Also see Luke 10:25-37. Who is our neighbor? How deep is our love?

### **Can We Forgive Unbelievers?**

This is an important question. When we forgive someone, that really proves that we love them. Forgiveness is true love in action. God gives Christians forgiveness, and He tells us to forgive each other. But can we really forgive an unbeliever? Will they understand when we forgive them? Read these verses and discuss.