

## 19 The Love of God Almighty

### Reflection

How do we show love for someone we care about? Can we share our story about a time when our father or mother scolded us or disciplined us? How did that make us feel?

### Inspiration from the Holy Bible

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, how we are children of God. (1 John 3:1-2)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

### Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

"Be good. Verily, Allah loves those who are good." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:195)

"If you should love Allah, then follow me. Allah will love you and forgive you your sins, for Allah is forgiving and merciful. (Surah Ale-Imran 3:31)

### Hadith

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said: "You will not enter Paradise until you believe and you will not believe until you love each other. Shall I show you something that, if you did, you would love each other? Spread peace between yourselves." (Sahih Muslim)

## What Is God's love like?

- a. God's love is great and everlasting. His love is richly lavished on all of us. He does not play favorites. His love for us is eternal and lasts forever.

The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jeremiah 31:3)

- b. God loves us so He disciplines us. God loves us too much to tolerate sinful habits and ungodly attitudes that can destroy us. Do not take His discipline lightly. The trials we experience are supposed to teach us lessons that He wants us to learn.

And have you' forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." (Hebrews 12:5-6)

- c. Discipline is proof of God's acceptance of us. We should not equate His discipline with rejection or failure.

Think about it: Just as a parent disciplines a child, the Lord your God disciplines you for your own good. (Deuteronomy 8:5)

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? (Hebrews 12:7)

Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

## Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: We put our faith in Your power, Lord, confident that You can do the impossible. In You we will find the

healing, abundance, prosperity and security that we seek. As we continue to walk with You, may You grant us the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.