

M I D - W E E K D E V O T I O N

In Matthew 22:39, Jesus commands us to "love your neighbor as yourself." This simple yet profound instruction is at the heart of the Christian life. But what does it mean to truly love our neighbor?

First, it requires intentionality. Love isn't a passive feeling but an active choice. Jesus doesn't define "neighbor" as just those who live next door or those who are easy to love. The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) teaches us a neighbor can be anyone in need, regardless of background or circumstance. A true neighbor is someone whose pain we choose to feel, whose burdens we choose to bear.

Loving our neighbors also involves sacrifice. Often, love requires going out of our way, making time, or stepping out of our comfort zones. Just as Christ laid down his life for us, our love for others may call us to lay down our preferences and convenience for their sake. This is love in action.

Furthermore, loving others reflects the love God has shown us. ¹ John 4:19 reminds us, "We love because God first loved us." When we love our neighbors, we become vessels of God's love, showing the world the transformative power of grace.

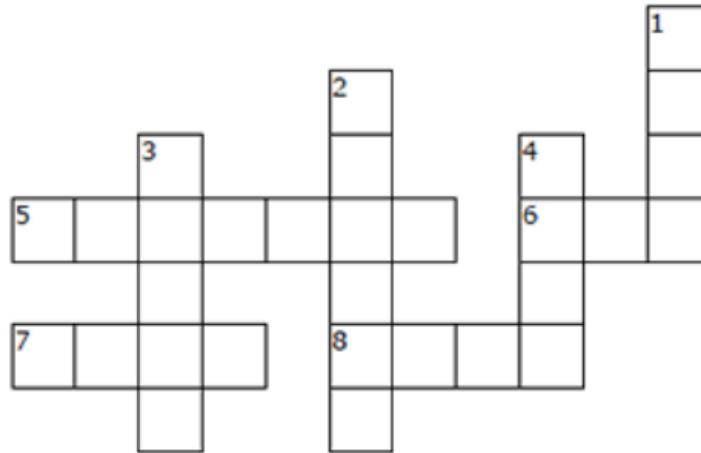
As we seek to love our neighbors, let's ask God for the heart and eyes to see others as God sees them—worthy of love and care. May our actions reflect God's love, bringing light to those around us.

Prayer: Lord, help me love my neighbor as You love me, with compassion, grace, and selflessness. Amen.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.
John 17:9 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 17:6-11 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. To keep from being injured or harmed
6. To be a single unit, object, or living being
7. A combination of letters that represents a thought or idea
8. To speak to God

DOWN

1. To place in the hands of someone
2. To receive something
3. That which belongs to you
4. Deserving special respect or reverence; worthy of worship

PRAY
ACCEPT

GIVE
YOURS

HOLY
WORD

PROTECT
ONE