

God
SPEAKS YOUR
Love Language

How to Experience and Express God's Love

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1

UNDERSTANDING THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) If the idea of the five love languages is new to you, which of the five do you think is your *primary* love language? Why? (You may not be sure at this point, but future chapters will provide much more information for you.)

- (2) If you are familiar with the five love languages, can you think of a time when “speaking the wrong language” created problems between you and another person? If so, how do you think a similar problem could develop in your relationship with God?

- (3) What initial questions do you have that you hope this book will help you answer?



2

**GOD SPEAKS LOVE
LANGUAGE #1:
WORDS OF
AFFIRMATION**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) How have you ever been touched by someone else's words of affirmation toward you? Think of some examples.

- (2) When was the last time you used words of affirmation to encourage another person? How consistent were you? What was the result?

- (3) How does God use words of affirmation to encourage you?

- (4) How might words of affirmation be incorporated into your worship of God? (Songs? Scripture reading? Poetry? Prayer? Serving as liturgist?)



3

**GOD SPEAKS LOVE
LANGUAGE #2:
QUALITY TIME**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) Do you know anyone whom you would guess has the primary love language of quality time? What makes you say so?

- (2) One expectation of *every* believer is to spend time with God. What do you think differentiates those with the primary love language of quality time from other believers?

- (3) Contrast your spiritual experience with that of someone else you know quite well. Can you see how a difference in primary love languages might cause the experiences to appear quite different, yet equally valid to God?



4

**GOD SPEAKS
LOVE LANGUAGE #3:
GIFTS**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) Who are some people you know who appear to have gift giving as a primary love language? In what ways do they show the love of God through giving? Do you aspire to be like such people, or do you think they have a special ability to give that isn't available to everyone?

- (2) What are some of the gifts of God you have received lately without even asking? What gifts would you like to ask for specifically? How would those things be used for the benefit of others as well as yourself?

- (3) When you consider that giving can include much more than money and other tangible things, do you see any new opportunities to speak this love language?
- (4) What are some ways you can use the gifts God has given you to give back to God (either tangibly or spiritually)?



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**GOD SPEAKS LOVE
LANGUAGE #4:
ACTS OF SERVICE**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) Do you know anyone like “Paul Brown,” who places acts of service above everything else—even his or her own personal benefit? To what extent does the person’s Christian commitment motivate him or her?

- (2) If someone like Mother Teresa spent time in your neighborhood, what needs do you think he or she would see that most others regularly overlook?

- (3) How many volunteer organizations can you name in your area that exist primarily to offer acts of service to others? Are there things you can do to get involved with one or more such services?

- (4) On a personal level, what acts of service have you done for others lately? Can you think of any opportunities you missed?



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**GOD SPEAKS LOVE
LANGUAGE #5:
PHYSICAL TOUCH**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) What would you say is the best example you've seen or experienced of receiving a "physical touch" from God?

- (2) How might someone use physical touch appropriately to minister to
 - a visitor at church?
 - a grieving coworker?
 - an elderly person in a nursing facility?

- (3) What other ways can you think of to "speak the love language of physical touch" in your worship of God?



7

**DISCOVERING
YOUR PRIMARY
LOVE LANGUAGE**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

(1) By this point in this book, you probably already have a good idea of what your primary love language is. But answer the three questions to confirm and/or clarify your opinion:

- *How do I most often express love to other people?*
- *What do I complain about most often?*
- *What do I request most often?*

- (2) As you answer the same three questions specifically in regard to your relationship with God, what discoveries do you make about the spiritual aspects of your life?
- (3) Think about some of the disagreements or conflicts you've had with other believers based around methods of worship. After considering the different love languages and how they influence someone's relationship with God, can you better understand the other person's preferences?
- (4) How might knowing your or someone else's love language help you make sense of suffering?



8

**LEARNING
TO SPEAK
NEW DIALECTS
OF LOVE**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) Consider your natural inclinations, experience, and preferences, and list the five love languages in an approximate order. Begin with your primary love language and end with the one that is most unlike you.

Words of Affirmation

Quality Time

Gifts

Acts of Service
Physical Touch

- (2) For each of the love languages, determine at least one dialect that you would be willing to do if the opportunity came along to use that action as an expression of love to God.

Words of Affirmation—
Quality Time—
Gifts—
Acts of Service—
Physical Touch—

- (3) What opportunities might you have this week to do some of the things you have listed? If you fail to think of any such opportunities, ask God to direct you to people who will benefit from receiving His love through the exercise of your love language(s).



9

**GETTING OUT
OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE**

**QUESTIONS FOR
REFLECTION/DISCUSSION**

- (1) Now that you know your own primary love language, what is your secondary love language? That is, which of the other love languages do you think might be easier for you to speak?

My primary love language is _____.

My secondary love language is _____.

- (2) Make a list of some of the ways you might speak your secondary love language in expressing your love to people and to God.

- (3) What opportunities might you have this week to do some of the things you have listed? Ask God to show you opportunities in which you might speak your secondary love language this coming week.

- (4) Keep open to challenges you might receive to speak some of the other love languages.



10

**WHATEVER THE
LANGUAGE, LET
LOVE PREVAIL**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- (1) Recall a time or two in your past when you would say that love prevailed in an unusual or difficult situation. What did you learn from each experience?

- (2) Can you think of a time when you reached out in love across cultural, racial, or other barriers? Sometimes we see the results of such actions, as in the story about Clarence. Other times we don't see any immediate benefits from our faithfulness to God. What were the results of your efforts?

(3) Occasionally we get set in our ways and/or stop seeing opportunities to reach out to others with love. Think of the past week. Can you recall any chances you had to speak a love language to show God's love to others but didn't? If so, what kept you from doing so? (Shyness? Fear? Too busy?) If you have a similar opportunity this week, what might you do differently to let love prevail?

NOTES

Introduction

The Divine Lover

1. Dictionary.com, s.v. “God,” <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/god?s=t>.
2. Genesis 1:27.

Chapter 2

God Speaks Love Language #1: Words of Affirmation

1. Jeremiah 31:3 (NASB).
2. John 13:1 (NASB).
3. 2 Timothy 3:16–17.
4. Genesis 1:26–27.
5. Hebrews 2:7; cf. Psalm 8:5.
6. Isaiah 48:17–18.
7. Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 29:11; 31:3,13.
8. John 5:24; 6:35, 40; 10:27–30; Revelation 22:12–13, 17.
9. Luke 23:34.
10. John 10:9–11.
11. *Library of the World’s Best Literature*, Charles Dudley Warner, ed., vol. 23, (New York: J. A. Hill & Co., 1896), 9334, 9340.
12. Psalm 119:103–5, 111, 114, 162–65.
13. Psalms 40:16; 69:30–31; 119:97–98; 145:21; 146:1–2.
14. Psalm 119:89, 91–93.

Chapter 3

God Speaks Love Language #2: Quality Time

1. See Genesis 1–3.
2. Genesis 18:17.
3. Psalm 145:17–18.
4. Isaiah 43:1–2.
5. Psalm 116:1–2.
6. James 4:8.
7. See John 14:23–26.
8. John 17:24; see also 14:16–18.
9. Mark 3:14.
10. George Mueller, *Autobiography of George Mueller: The Life of Trust* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981), 115.
11. *Ibid.*, 62.
12. *Ibid.*, 206.

Chapter 4

God Speaks Love Language #3: Gifts

1. R. G. LeTourneau, *Mover of Men and Mountains* (Chicago: Moody, 1972), 204.
2. *Ibid.*, 205.
3. *Ibid.*, 105.
4. *Ibid.*, 278.
5. *Ibid.*, 33.
6. *Ibid.*, 280.
7. Genesis 1:27, 29–31.
8. Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17.
9. Deuteronomy 7:13.
10. Deuteronomy 11:13–15.
11. 1 Kings 3:7, 9, 11–13.
12. John 3:17, 35–36.
13. John 16:16–17, 20.
14. John 16:23–24.
15. Ephesians 5:1–2.
16. James 1:17; 1 John 3:1–2.
17. Ephesians 4:11–12.
18. 1 Corinthians 12:7.
19. Matthew 25:34–40.
20. Psalm 19:1–3.
21. Matthew 7:7–11.
22. James 4:3.

Chapter 5

God Speaks Love Language #4: Acts of Service

1. José Luis Gonzalez-Balado, *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words* (Liguori, MO: Liguori, 1996), ix.
2. *Ibid.*, x.
3. *Ibid.*, 24, 109, 26, 30.
4. *Ibid.*, 34.
5. *Ibid.*, 33.
6. *Ibid.*, 38, 80.
7. *Ibid.*, 107.
8. *Ibid.*, 108–9.
9. Romans 15:6; see also 2 Corinthians 1:3 and Ephesians 1:3.
10. John 14:8–11.
11. John 15:24–25.
12. Jesus brought back to life a widow's son (Luke 7:11–17), a ruler's daughter (Luke 8:41–42, 49–56), and a male friend who had been in the grave four days (John 11:1–44).
13. John 15:9.
14. John 15:12–13; Luke 23:34.
15. Romans 5:6–8.
16. John 17:24, 26.

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Chapter 6

God Speaks Love Language #5: Physical Touch

1. Psalms 68:5; 27:10.
2. Genesis 32:25, 30.
3. Exodus 34:29, 33.
4. See Mark 10:13.
5. Mark 10:15; see verse 16.
6. John 9:11.
7. See Matthew 9:27, 29–30.
8. See Matthew 8:2–3, 15.
9. Matthew 17:2–3, 5–8; see also Mark 9:2–10 and Luke 9:28–36.
10. John 13:1–4.
11. John 13:12–15, 17.
12. José Luis Gonzalez-Balado, *Mother Teresa: In My Own Words* (Liguori, MO: Liguori, 1996), 35.
13. Acts 3:6–10.
14. Acts 3:12–13, 16.
15. Acts 3:18–21.
16. Acts 9:4–9.
17. Acts 9:17–19.
18. See Acts 9:20–22.

Chapter 7

Discovering Your Primary Love Language

1. 2 Corinthians 12:9–10.
2. 2 Timothy 4:6–7.

Chapter 8

Learning to Speak New Dialects of Love

1. See, for example, Romans 1:21.
2. Robert J. Morgan, *From This Verse: 365 Inspiring Stories about the Power of God's Word* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998), 362.
3. Psalm 42:1–2.
4. See Matthew 10:42.
5. Acts 10:38.
6. John 20:30–31 NIV 1984 (see context).
7. Luke 7:38.

Chapter 10

Whatever the Language, Let Love Prevail

1. 1 John 4:20 (author's paraphrase).
2. Matthew 5:43–47.
3. John 8:42–47.
4. Philippians 2:4; Romans 12:10.
5. Romans 5:7–8.
6. Romans 5:5.
7. John 19:30.
8. Matthew 27:51–54.
9. Revelation 13:8.

10. John 13:34–35.
11. David Wilkerson with John and Elizabeth Sherrill, *The Cross and the Switchblade* (New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1963), 72.
12. See Psalm 68:6; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 3:15.
13. Ephesians 3:14–21.
14. John 13:34–35.
15. Luke 23:34.
16. See Colossians 1:21–22.
17. See John 3:16–18; 1 John 1:9.
18. John 10:11.
19. 1 John 4:16, 19.