



God Speaks Your Love Language

How to Feel and Reflect God's Love

Teacher's Guide

Chapter One - Understanding the five love languages

Genesis 1:27

What initial questions do you have that you think this book will help you answer?

When have you encountered language difficulties or problems communicating with someone? Describe the situation and feelings experienced.

Has this ever happened with you and God?

When have you experienced the opposite - a time when you and another person were really connecting with one another? Describe the situation and feelings.

How does it feel when someone understands not only your words but your thoughts and feelings behind them?

Has this ever happened between you and God?

What do you guess was your primary love language was?

Were you correct?

List out your love languages to after test:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Read 1st Corinthians 13 - the "love chapter" then describe how this description of love in scripture would be to each love language...

Words of Affirmation:

Quality Time:

Gifts:

Acts of Service:

Physical Touch:

From your primary and secondary love languages, the ones you speak best, how do they function in your marriage?

How can you use your primary and secondary love languages to encourage your family?

From your primary and secondary love languages, the ones you speak best, how do they function in the body of Christ?

How can you use these love languages to encourage our church family?

How can you use them best to enhance these Bible studies?

Define God:

Find your favorite verse in the Bible about God:

Take the Love Language test with your family and list their results below:

Chapter Two - Words of Affirmation

John 10:9-11

What makes verbal compliments work as a motivators?

Do you take the time to encourage your spouse?

Define "humble"?

What do humble words communicate?

Has this encouragement helped your spouse realize a hidden or latent potential?

Think of an example from a long time ago when someone's words meant a great deal to you and stayed with you?

Think of a recent time when someone's words touched you?

When was the last time you used words of affirmation to encourage another person?

How consistent were you?

What was the result?

How does God use words of affirmation to encourage you?

Find three verses in the Bible containing God's promises like in Psalm 119:103-105, Isaiah 41:10, and John 6:35. Write them out, try to memorize at least one of them.

Some people would consider these verses "just words". What is it about them that provides the sense of affirmation to you?

How might words of affirmation be incorporated into your worship?

Let's practice words of affirmation: write to everyone that attends our Bible study. Use a verse or quote with your words to further encourage them. We will share these when we meet.

List short statements of affirmation to God, like the examples of page #44 from King David.

Chapter Three - Quality Time

Psalm 16:1-2

What is the difference between words of affirmation and quality time conversation?

Why do you attend this Bible study? After each person responds, see how many expressed, in one form or another, the desire to spend time with others.

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

An expectation of a believer is to spend time with God. What do you think differentiates those with the primary love language as quality time to other believers?

Contrast your spiritual experience with that of your husband or someone else you know well, who has a different primary love language. Can you see how a difference in primary love languages might cause the experiences to appear quite different, yet be equally valid to God?

Choose one of the following, mentioned in this chapter, to do a little research on:

David Brainard.

E.M. Bounds.

Charles Finney.

Praying John Hyde.

George Mueller - What did you think of his devotion to prayer and quality time with God?

Do you think his commitment to God and the orphanages were interrelated?

Why or why not?

What people do you know personally who appear to demonstrate quality time as a primary love language?

How does it affect their relationship with God?

How does it influence their relationship with other people?

Read Mark 4:30-41: What can you learn about quality time from these verses?

How can you apply it?

Read Luke 10:38-42: What can you learn about quality time from these verses?

How can you apply it?

Read Genesis 18. What can we learn and apply about quality time from Abraham and God?

Read Mark 4:30–41. What can we learn and apply about quality time from Jesus and the disciples?

Read Luke 10:38–42. What can we learn and apply about quality time from Jesus, Mary and Martha?

Chapter Four - Gifts

Matthew 7:7-11

Do you know anyone whose primary love language is giving gifts?

In what ways do they show the love of God in their giving?

Do you aspire to be like such people, or do you think they have a special ability to give that isn't for everyone? Explain.

List some gifts you have been given without asking:

List things you would like to ask for and how they could be used for good to yourself as well as those around you:

When you consider that giving can be more than money or tangible items, do you see new opportunities to speak this love language? List a few ideas:

What are some ways you can use the gifts that God has given you to give back to God either tangible or spiritual?

Explain that people have different opinions about how much to expect from God, and let them describe their personal beliefs about God as a giver.

- Are success and wealth a blessing from God?
- Does God give to each person equally? If not, why not?
- If we don't use the gifts God gives us, are we in danger of losing them?

Then discuss the concept of God's gifts as a love language. While people may disagree on aspects of His gifts, few can argue that God gives to people out of love, and is pleased when they give to one another.

Read 1st Corinthians 12:4-10, 28-30, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11-13

List what you believe your spiritual gifts are:

Read Romans 12:9-21 and discuss these "marks" of the true Christian...

Read Luke 21:1-2 and name the significance of this giving.

What other gifts have you seen either in the community or the church that seem small but met very real needs?

Refer to Matthew 10:42 as well, giving a drink of cold water. Discuss how these small gifts are noticed and rewarded by God!

How can a gift be both an immediate and lasting investment in a relationship?

Chapter Five - Acts of Service

Romans 5:6-8

Why do acts of service qualify as an expression of love?

Reference the story of Mark and Mary in the Five Love Languages book on pages 92-100, then go on to read Dr. Chapman's illustration of this marriage on pages 101-103. Discuss each truth and what we can learn from it.

1. .

2. .

3. .

Do you know anyone whose primary love language is acts of service?

Do you know anyone like Paul Brown from the book who places acts of service above everything else including his own personal benefit?

Name a time when someone performed an act of service for you that had a lasting effect?

Take time to write down any acts of service you have performed for someone else, in your home, for your church family, for a stranger...

Can you name any time that you saw an opportunity and failed to act?

How do you think God evaluates our acts of service?

If someone like Mother Teresa spend time in your neighborhood, what are things she might notice that most others overlook? Identify them.

Read Exodus 17:8-13. Which of the participants named do you think was primarily responsible for the Israelites' victory over the Amalekites?

Which of the characters do you most relate to? Why?

Do you think people give equal credit for Aarons and Hurs who are willing to preform mundane acts of service, or do they show more respect for those like Moses and Joshua?

Why?

Do you think those in the church do any better than the general population at recognizing everyone's contributions?

Chapter Six - Physical Touch

Mark 10:13-16

Do you know anyone whose primary love language is physical touch?

What would you say is the best example you've experienced of receiving a "physical touch" from God?

Rate your comfort zone for the following scenarios from #1 (least comfortable) to #10 (most comfortable)

- _____ kisses, hugs, and such among immediate family
- _____ a hug from a casual acquaintance of the opposite gender in a public place
- _____ a hug from a casual acquaintance of the same gender in a public place
- _____ holding hands of strangers while singing in church
- _____ the unexpected hand of a homeless person on their shoulder at a city park
- _____ the embrace of an elderly person on their shoulder at a city park

How might someone use physical touch appropriately to minister to...

- A visitor at church?
- A neighbor child playing in the yard?
- A homeless person on the street?
- An elderly person in a nursing facility?

Search the Bible and find four examples of Jesus using physical touch in his ministry

1. -

2. -

3. -

4. -

Read Luke 8:40-48. Why do you think this woman was so compelled to touch Jesus?

Among the large crowd, how did Jesus know this one lady was intentionally touching Him?

What made her touch different from the other people around Him, touching Him?

Jesus was on His way to see a very sick girl (who would be dead by the time He arrived). What do we learn about Him from His willingness to stop and seek one particular person before moving on?

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

Chapter Seven - Discovering Your Primary Love Language

Confirm and clarify your primary love language with three questions in regards to my relationships among family and friends:

- How do I most often express love to others?

- What do I complain about most often?

- What do I request most often?

Confirm and clarify your primary love language with three questions in regards to my relationship with God:

- How do I most often express love to others?

- What do I complain about most often?

- What do I request most often?

Read 1st Samuel 17:4-11, 32-40. The David verses Goliath story will probably be familiar, so focus on David's choice of attire.

- Do you think David was naïve or unaware of the severity of the challenge before him?
- What practical steps did King Saul take to protect David?
- Why did David decline Saul's offer?
- What was the ultimate result? (1st Samuel 17:41-54)
- How might this story relate to love languages?

What does any of this have to do with his attire and love languages?

Has an increased awareness of love languages affected your level of understanding towards others?

Has an increased awareness of love languages affected your ability to understand and help fellow believers?

Think about some of the disagreements or conflicts you have had with other believers based around methods of worship. Give examples.

After considering the different love languages and how they influence someone's relationship with God, can you better understand the other person's preferences?

Chapter Eight - Learning to Speak New Dialects of Love

John 20:30-31

List all five love languages in your order from the best to the least. Consider your natural inclinations, experience, and preferences...

1. -

2. -

3. -

4. -

5. -

Do you remember a time when you were in a situation that was completely out of your element... what made you feel out of place? How did you react/ respond? Did you learn anything positive from this experience?

For each love language determine at least one dialect that you prefer and how you can put this into action?

Words of Affirmation -

Quality Time -

Gifts -

Acts of Service -

Physical Touch -

Read Luke 10:1-12, 16-17. Back in this time most people would have been familiar and comfortable with Jewish rite and rituals, so this mission from Christ was a rather challenging one.

- How would you like to have been among this group? Why?
- How do you think you would have handled this assignment?
- What would have been your hopes? Your fears? Your biggest challenge?

- How well would you have handles living with strangers?
- How would have responded to being rejected?
- How do you think your final response would compare to the disciples?

After we discover our primary love language, why does it matter whether or not we "speak" other languages as, or add different dialects?

How does this affect our worship?

This was a lengthy chapter with a number of specific ideas involving all five love languages, did any of the suggestions stand out to you?

Chapter Nine - Love Languages and God's Discipline

Psalm 42:1-2

When you hear the word discipline, what first comes to mind?

Name some positive aspects of discipline.

Self discipline -

Discipline imposed by others -

Can you detect any connections between the effectiveness of discipline and the person's love languages?

Think of various ways your parents disciplined you as a child. As you think back on them as an adult, did most of those attempts have a positive or negative effect on you?

Can you think of a time when God used your primary love language to discipline you in some way? What were the circumstances? What was the result?

Growing up was discipline a positive, negative or neutral word?

Have your parents discipline effected your view of God?

Read Hebrews 12:4-13.

- What was the author referring to when he uses the word "discipline" in verse 7?

- What is the purpose of God's discipline?

- What is the motivation behind God's discipline?

Emphasize that God is compared to but very different from a parent...

Read Luke 15:11-32. Examine the actions and response of the father and parallel that with God in our lives today:

Chapter Ten - Whatever the Language, Let Love Prevail

Jeremiah 29:13 & Matthew 20:28

Recall a time in your life when love prevailed in a tough situation:

What did you learn from that experience?

Can you think of a time when you reached out in love across cultural, racial, or other barriers?

What were the results of your efforts?

Can you think of a recent time when you had the chance to reach out to show God's love to others but failed to do it?

What kept you from doing it?

Have you ever encountered a so called "lover of God" who didn't display genuine love?

What was the situation?

What was your response to that person?

How do you respond to the thought that God's love is unconditional?

How does that consideration influence your daily life?

Read 1st John 4:7-21.

- Is anything in this passage new to you, or do you see any of these truths in a new light after completing this book?
- How important is love in your relationship with God?
- How important is love in your relationship with other people?

- How do you explain the statement "God is love"?
- What do you think was meant by "love is made complete among us"?
- How is love supposed to connect our worship to our daily life?

Did this book answer the questions you might have had at the beginning of the study?

Read 1st Corinthians 13 as we did in chapter one and examine the love languages we see in this passage. In terms of your designated love language.

In review:

How does God speak your primary love language?

How do you reflect that love to others?

Epilogue:

God reveals love -

God initiates love -

God is love -