

**BIG IDEA**

Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.

**BIBLE**

Mark 12:28–34; Colossians 3:12–14; John 3:16

**ABOUT THIS WEEK**

If you searched for a love playlist on Spotify, you'd end up with thousands of results, but which would be the best one to listen to? This week, we'll hear a story about a man who wanted to know which rules to listen to and follow first. In his response focused on love, **Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.**

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

**POLL | Whose Playlist?**

- Welcome back to *On Repeat*, where we will continue looking to Jesus for an example of what it looks like to love people well. If you want to know how well someone cares for their friends, you look at how they treat them. But if you want to know what kind of music someone loves, look at a playlist they made.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your weekly program, ask a volunteer, parent, friend, or someone familiar with your group to make a playlist of ten songs they've been playing on repeat that week. Have them send you a screenshot that you can show on the screen. Teenagers will try to guess who made the playlist. If it helps, give the group a list of people to choose from. Have them vote on whose playlist it is by raising their hands or moving to different sides of the room.*
- It's easy for us to pick out the songs we love. When we love music, we tend to listen to it on repeat. What if we thought about how we cared for the people around us similarly? What can we repeatedly do for our friends, family, and people around us to show them we care about them?

**DISCUSSION**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion and save it for small groups. If you conduct this discussion, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - **What's your favorite hype song? What's your favorite love song?**
  - ★ **Is there a real-life or fictional person you think of when you hear the word "love"? What about them makes you associate love with them?**
  - **What are ways you appreciate people showing they love you?**

**MUSIC | "What Is Love" by Haddaway**

- There's one word that's frequently attributed to Jesus— love. And if I asked you to give one song about love, you would have a ton come to mind. But there's one song in particular that, at least for a few decades, would have come up in everyone's mind: "What Is Love?" by Haddaway.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play a clip from “What is Love” (Haddaway) from 0:00-0:30, or (since this is not a Christian artist) choose a piece with similar themes from an artist you like! But make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) Here’s [a link](#) to preview the song for your personal use.

### IMAGE | A Night At The Roxbury GIF

- Years ago, Saturday Night Live did a silly sketch using this dance song and made something iconic out of something so simple ... a head bob.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, show a GIF reaction on screen, like [this one](#). For more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- That sketch cemented this song as the song people any time someone asks, “What is love?” But this iconic song asks a crucial question that we have probably asked at some point in our lives: “What is love?”
- How do we know what it looks like? How do we show others? Is it simply bobbing your head, feeling the vibes in a nightclub? Is it something else? This is one song that asks this question, and there are thousands more that try to answer the question. What is love? If you asked everyone here, you may get a different answer.

### QUESTION | “What do you think love is?”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the following question and give your group time to turn to their neighbors and share their responses. Provide a few groups a chance to share their answer with everyone.
  - **What do you think love is?**
  - **What makes you feel loved?**
- We experience love in many different ways—especially when considering all our different types of relationships. We feel love from our families differently than from our friends. There’s probably overlap in how we feel loved by others, but we all experience love differently.
- For some of us, when we’re upset, we think it’s most loving for people to let us be alone for a little while. Others might want people to come alongside them and comfort them. Neither response is better, but it shows how complex love can be. Jesus understood this, so let’s look at a story that can help us understand what it looks like to love people as he did.

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

### SCRIPTURE | Mark 12:28–30

- In Jesus’ time, the religious culture was centered around how people lived and followed the Old Testament’s first five books. They called it the Torah, which is referred to as “the Law” in the New Testament. They loved God so much that they wanted to be sure they were repeating the ways of living that God cared about the most.
- So, religious teachers constantly discussed what they thought were the most critical parts of the Law. As Jesus taught, a religious scholar asked him what he thought was the most important commandment. Take a look.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Mark 12:28–30.
- When Jesus answered, he talked about something we can all do—love. Jesus’ words here weren’t some new truth for the people. They were rooted in the history and tradition of what God’s people had known about for years.
- When Jesus talks about loving God, he’s quoting a well-known passage to God’s people found in Deuteronomy 4:6. In this famous prayer, God’s people are invited to love God with their entire being, to not just listen to what God says but to follow through and do the things God asks. Following God was not just a thing to do once a week. It’s a way of living and being, not a list to check off. You do it every day, with every part of you.

### SCRIPTURE | Mark 12:31–34

- What's interesting about this story is Jesus doesn't just stop with the one commandment. He keeps talking and pulls in another other idea, too.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Mark 12:31–34.*
- He told this religious scholar—who would have known these rules and laws very well that loving your neighbor is intricately connected to loving God. Jesus was saying they're two sides of the same coin. You can't do one without doing the other.
  - These two things being connected helps us see that for Jesus, love is not primarily a feeling for someone else that happens to you. The love Jesus is talking about differs from love songs about "falling in love." Love is a choice to seek the well-being of people other than yourself.
  - Love means seeking people's well-being without expecting anything in return, especially those in difficult situations who can't repay you even if they want to. Jesus is showing us here that this kind of generous love amplifies the very heartbeat of God.
- Jesus is teaching us that as we love God with our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, it becomes a deep concern for loving the people around us. Caring for others becomes a response that overflows because of our love for God. Essentially, our love for others is an act of worship!

### DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion and save it for small groups. If you conduct this discussion, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - ★ **Do you think Jesus connecting loving God and loving people makes love more difficult to demonstrate or easier? Why or why not?**
  - **Can you think of anyone whose ability to love others inspired you to love God more? What did they do that led to that response in you?**

### SCRIPTURE | Colossians 3:12–14

- We might be thinking, "Sure, great. I knew that already. Loving God is a vital part of following Jesus. But what does it *look like* to live this love out?"
- Paul was one of the people who helped start the Early Church and helped write a good chunk of the New Testament, and he spent a significant part of his life helping people understand what living out a life of love can look like.
- There was a community of Jesus' followers who were having difficulty knowing what it looked like to love people who were treating them poorly, and this is how he encouraged them ...
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Colossians 3:12–14.*
- Paul helps us see that as we turn from our old way of living, God gives us a love that binds and holds together things like compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. On top of that, love includes forgiveness and the idea of bearing with each other, a way of making space for opinions and ways of seeing the world grow and change. Paul is just expanding on how Jesus defined love. When we learn to love God and others as ourselves, we start living in ways that treat others like this.
- All of those things funnel up into this idea of love. So, if you're saying you love people, but you're not showing any of those other traits, you have something, but it's not love. For our love to be the kind Jesus showed others—it must have these elements.
- If how you treat each other includes those things, and you remain connected to God, you will love people as Jesus did. Paul is showing us ways of treating each other that we can do with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength for everyone we come in contact with because **Jesus shows us love is worth repeating.**

**NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?***OBJECT LESSON | What's On The Playlist?**

- When thinking about ways to love others, the life of Jesus shows us that love includes action. What loving actions would we put on our playlist or record? In the Bible, **Jesus shows us love is worth repeating**, which means living in ways that show people compassion, kindness, and patience. But what does it look like for us to live that way day in and day in and day out?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You'll need an old vinyl record for this object lesson. You can get one from a thrift store or make your own out of cardboard and paint it black. Get a silver or gold Sharpie marker to write on the record that is visible to your group. Before your gathering, write "Love Worth Repeating" on the record. As you list and talk about these practical acts of expressing love, write them on the record. You can also invite a volunteer to write them for you while you talk.*
  - **RECEIVE JESUS' LOVE FOR YOU:** How can you show the love of Jesus if you haven't experienced it for yourself? Jesus loves you and wants you to see yourself as he does. Talk to one of the leaders here today if you want to understand what it means to receive Jesus' love in your life and let it change how you relate with God, yourself, and others.
  - **LOOK AT WHAT JESUS DID:** If you need examples of love in your life, remember love comes from God. We see love over and over through the life of Jesus. He did so much to show people love. If we're about to do something we *think* is loving but realize it's probably not something Jesus did, we should pause and reconsider our approach. Think about how he would love this person and do that instead. If you are wondering how Jesus would treat someone like this, you can find out about it in the book of Mark.
  - **FOCUS ON OTHERS:** The love Jesus talks about is a choice to seek the well-being of people other than yourself. Think about it this way: when making a playlist for someone, you wouldn't include Paramore or a Disney movie soundtrack if you didn't think they would like it. You would give them music that makes them want to listen to it. You'd customize the list to fit what they like. God's sacrificial love never changes, but it does adapt depending on the circumstance. You can do the same!

**DISCUSSION**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion and save it for small groups. If you conduct this discussion, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - **How has someone shown you love by living out the way that Paul talks about love?**
  - **Read John 3:16. Jesus demonstrated love in all sorts of different ways before he died on the cross – what are some ways you saw Jesus show love for us? Why are those important?**
  - ★ **Has there been a time someone has shown you love that prompted you to show love to someone else? What would it look like to do that more often?**

**REFLECTION | What Do You Love?**

- What is on your playlist that's worth repeating? In what ways can you express love to others by caring for them? Because, if we're honest, we don't always feel like loving people right away. Sometimes, we wonder about when others will show love to us or when we'll feel like God loves us. And that's an okay feeling. We all experience that from time to time.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this reflection, you'll need to print out the handouts [included in this week's materials](#). Print out enough for each teen to have one and place a handout and a pen underneath each teen's chair.*

- Now that you have spent some time reflecting on how **Jesus shows us love is worth repeating**, choose a few ways to put it into practice this week.

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you have more than 15 students, skip this discussion and save it for small groups. If you conduct this discussion, the starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them for middle schoolers.*
  - **What's one way you can demonstrate God's love to someone else this week?**
  - **Today, who is a person you can go out of your way to demonstrate love on repeat?**

## RESPONSE | Our Community Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For instructions on how to set up this community playlist, look at the instructions for the "Our Community Playlist" module in Week 1.*
  - *NOTE: If you would like to filter the songs on the list before they are added, you could have an adult leader add their song to the playlist or have them hand in an index card with their music on it that you can add later.*
- Throughout this series, we're creating a playlist as a community, where each of you picks a song to add to the playlist that helps answer a question. Today, add a song to the playlist that answers this question: What is "love" for you right now? This week, listen to these songs to learn more about our community.

## ACTIVITY | Spiritual Gifts Assessment

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you haven't already done so, this would be a great series to encourage your group to complete the Spiritual Gifts assessment, [which you can find in your Discipleship folder](#). You can do it during your program or give it to leaders or teenagers to do later. However, you do it to create space to follow up about what they found and what it looks like to put what they learned into practice.*
- As we pay attention to songs that express how people understand love, we get to know them better and hear what it may look like to them to love them well because **Jesus shows us love is worth repeating**.