

Daily God Walk  
Another Day in  
Your Journey of  
Faith  
January - 2013  
Study and  
Discussion Guide

A ministry of:

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# **New Features of the Daily God Walk**

## **Daily God Walk Online**

We are now offering internet access to the Daily God Walk. We are posting the Daily God Walk as an e-book and giving our readers an opportunity to register to receive it monthly. At present we are only offering it in a format for the computer, but we will soon have it available for mobile devices.

## **Small Group Study Guide for Daily God Walk**

So many people are responding to the messages in our devotional that we are now offering a study guide each month to help those who want to use the Daily God Walk for discussions in small groups. The study guide is available online at [www.biblestudydevotions.com/studyguide.html](http://www.biblestudydevotions.com/studyguide.html).

## **Tips on Leading a Small Group**

We have found that there are many folks who want to lead small groups so now you will also find, in the back of the book each month, tips on using the Daily God Walk as a text for small group discussions as well.

## **Small Group Coaching Online**

For many years a focus of our ministry has been small group meetings. We have found that spiritual growth takes place when small groups of believers gather to discuss the Scripture, pray together, share the issues of life and fellowship together.

That is our motivation for expanding our ministry to include small group coaching. If you lead a small group, sometimes called cell group, or if you would like to be a leader, I encourage you to check out our small group site: [www.biblestudydevotions.com/Small-Group\\_Coach\\_One.html](http://www.biblestudydevotions.com/Small-Group_Coach_One.html)

Our hope is that the entire Daily God Walk program will be a blessing to you, a help for spiritual growth and an asset to your ministry.

## How To Use This Study Guide

This study guide is designed with a dual purpose. First it can be used to help the individual get a greater benefit from the Daily God Walk by going through the exercises for each day. And second, it can be used as a guide for small groups.

Every day there is a question or statement pertinent to the devotion for that day. You are encouraged to take the time to pray and meditate upon this material. It is amazing how the text of the devotion comes alive when time is spent praying and meditating over it.

When using the Daily God Walk in a small group setting pay particular attention to the "Guide the discussion" segment of each day. When you are exploring the message for that day in a small group use this as a discussion starter.

It is not critical to discuss every daily message when a group meets weekly. You will probably find that there will be times you will only discuss one or two of the daily devotions. That's OK. It is better to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit than it is to rigidly hold to a lesson plan.

It is better to think of yourself as a moderator rather than a teacher when conducting a small group. The difference is this: A teacher gives a lecture and a moderator guides a discussion.

As a moderator you present a question, or make a statement then ask the group to participate by responding. Sometimes, when the group is slow to respond, you may have to ask a particular member of the group to respond with what they think or how they feel.

# Daily God Walk Study Guide for January, 2013

## January 1-4 – Love... It's the Command of God

In these first days of January we are exploring the commands to love God and to love each other. We are also looking at the way love calls us to sacrifice and obedience.

The following questions are good for personal reflection and are good for discussion in small groups:

### January 1 - Love... It's the Command of God:

- What was the difference between the God of Israel the other gods around them?
- **Guide the discussion:** consider the reasons Israel tended to follow other gods and why we today tend to follow other things beside God.

### January 2 - Love so the World Will Know:

- What is your attitude toward those who do not believe just the way you do?
- **Guide the discussion:** Emphasize tolerance of other believers with differing viewpoints.

### January 3 - Love... The Command That Calls Us to Sacrifice:

- Explain the statement, " Love that does not call us to invest ourselves in the lives of others is not love at all - it is just a self gratifying emotion."
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about how each person can serve others.

### January 4 - Love... Calls Us to Obedience:

- What has obedience to the commands of Christ have to do with love?
- **Guide the discussion:** discuss the difference between a doctrinal profession and a true heart-felt conversion.

## January 4-11 – Love is more than an act

This week we are looking at I Corinthians 13 and the lessons taught there about how we are to love.

### January 5 - A Resounding Gong and Clanging Cymbal:

- When does the gospel become a "resounding gong or a clanging cymbal"?
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about the difference between knowing about love and knowing love.

### January 6 - Service Without Love Produces Little Satisfaction:

- Why doesn't service without love satisfy?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss scenarios where you have observed service without love and the results.

### January 7 - Love is Patient and Kind:

- Do we really love if we are not kind?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore ways of being kind and patient in difficult situations.

### January 8 - Love Forgets the Bad Stuff:

- How does, "I'll forgive but I won't forget" compare to love keeps no record of wrongs?
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about how a love driven life can forget the bad stuff.

### January 9 - Love Rejoices in the Truth:

- How do we lovingly stand for the truth?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore how we can serve the ungodly without condoning their ungodliness.

### January 10 - - Love Protects, Trusts, Hopes, Perseveres:

- How has love motivated you to protect and care for others?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss how we protect and care for others without controlling or manipulating them.

### January 11 - Love Never Fails:

- Consider what causes a relationship to fall apart.
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about the paragraph that has the line, "Love hasn't failed, we have failed to love."

## January 12-18 – When Love is Tough/ is Hard

Tough love is when we are holding someone accountable and hard love is when it is not easy to love, but we love anyway.

### January 12 - Tough Love is Holding Myself Accountable:

- What does Paul instruct Timothy to do to hold himself accountable?
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about how we must be accountable before we hold others accountable.

### January 13 - Tough Love is Holding Others Accountable:

- Give an example of how to hold those under your care accountable.
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore the point at which we must use tough love on someone we love.

### January 14 - Hard love is loving the unlovely:

- Who are some of the unlovely you have loved?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss the difference between hard love and tough love.

### January 15 - Hard love is loving my enemies:

- How can they be my enemies if I love them?
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about how evil is overcome by doing good rather than retaliating in kind.

### January 16 - Hard love is standing strong in adversity:

- How is our love of God tested by persecution?
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about how persecution tests our love and how enduring strengthens it.

### January 17 - Hard love is loving friends who oppose You:

- How can we love each other when we are in strong disagreement?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore how disagreements affect our relationships.

### January 18 - Hard love often costs more than I want to give:

- This is the true test of love - How have you been asked to give more than you want to give?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss times when a choice was made whether to love hard, or give in to our flesh.

## January 19-25 – Who Should I love?

This week we answer the question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” We also explore those we are commanded to love in Scripture: God, your brother, Love Neighbor as self, Love your enemies, Love your spouse, Love those who despise you, Love yourself as a creation of God.

### January 19 - Love The Lord Your God With All...:

- What was this young man lacking in his faith?
- **Guide the discussion:** Talk about the hold on us that things sometimes have.

### January 20 - Love Your Neighbor:

- Ask Yourself: Who do I consider my neighbor?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore how we can be a good neighbor to those in our community.

### January 21 - Love Your Brother:

- Who is our brother, and why do we have a hard time loving him?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss the issues that might divide families and/or churches.

### January 22 - Love Your Spouse:

- What does loving your spouse mean to you?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss some signs that a person loves their spouse.

### January 23 - Love Your Enemies:

- If he isn't my enemy, then what is he?
- **Guide the discussion:** Ask for examples of how kindness to an enemy turned him into a friend.

### January 24 - Love Those Who Persecute You:

- How could Jesus forgive those who crucified him?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore how we forgive those who persecute and abuse us.

### January 25 - Love Yourself:

- How can I love myself and still love God with all my heart?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss what it means to love ourselves in an appropriate manner.

## January 26-31 – How Am I Commanded to Love?

In these last few days of the month we are looking at the ways we are commanded to love. Scripture teaches that we are to love with our whole heart. We are to demonstrate our love by our deeds and out of love we show respect to others.

### January 26 - Love Him and Trust Him:

- How does trust relate to love?
- **Guide the discussion:** Ask for examples of how love and trust go hand in hand.

### January 27 - The Love Triangle:

- Faith, Hope and Love- are these all interrelated, or can we have one without the others?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore how these three are each integral to the other.

### January 28 - The Call to Selfless Love:

- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss how Jesus was asking to show his love for him.

### January 29 - The Fruit of the Spirit is Love:

- How do we become the tree whose fruit is love?
- **Guide the discussion:** Ask participants to explain how one becomes a spiritual tree bearing spiritual fruit.

### January 30 - Love the Truth:

- What does getting wisdom, discipline and understanding have to do with the truth?
- **Guide the discussion:** Explore the question of whether wisdom, discipline and understanding come automatically with truth.

### January 31 - The Power of Love:

- How does love lead us to fullness in Christ?
- **Guide the discussion:** Discuss the depth of the love of God and how we are to be immersed in that love.

Our hope is that the devotions for this month will inspire you to love as God loves, make you stronger in your commitment to him and call you into deeper spirituality.

## Tips for Leading a Small Group

The model for small group ministry is in Acts 2:42-47, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

The components of a successful small group are:

- ✓ Sound teaching material - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching"
- ✓ Devoted to the fellowship of believers.
- ✓ Devoted to breaking bread together.
- ✓ Devoted to prayer together.
- ✓ Devoted to meeting together regularly.

Next month we'll have some more tips on leading a small group.

To get more insights on leading small groups go to:

[www.diblestudydevotions.com/Small-Group\\_Coach\\_one.html](http://www.diblestudydevotions.com/Small-Group_Coach_one.html)

If you have any questions, ideas, or comments, feel free to contact us at any time.

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