

Living for God: Loving One Another

Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.

—Romans 12:10 NIV

Consider reading
Romans
12:9–10

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After work Jan and her friends were going out for pizza. Jan loved to eat pizza and spend time with her friends. She couldn't wait for her work day to be finished. Finally it was 4 p.m. and Jan's shift was over. As Jan hung up her apron in her work locker, she heard someone crying. It was Jan's co-worker Marsha. "What's wrong, Marsha?" Jan asked as she walked over to her. Marsha sobbed, "Tomorrow morning I have to have surgery on my arm. I'm afraid it will hurt a lot."

- ***Have you ever had to have surgery? If so, were you afraid?***

Jan understood how Marsha felt. She told Marsha about the surgery she'd had on her knee two years earlier. Then, she told her how her friends came to visit her before the surgery and while she was getting better. She said that they prayed with her and asked Jesus to heal her. "Their prayers and care for me made things easier," Jan said. Marsha looked at Jan. "I don't have any friends who would do that."

- ***Do you have any friends who will pray with you when you need prayers?***

Jan could see how worried Marsha was. Even though Jan was looking forward to an evening with her friends, she knew what she had to do. Jan said, "How about if I come over to your house and we fix dinner together?" "You'd do that for me?" said Marsha. "I thought tonight was your pizza night with your friends." "It's OK," said Jan. "Just let me call my friends to let them know I'll see them next week."

- ***Who did Jan put first, Marsha or herself?***
- ***How did Jan show God's love to Marsha?***
- ***Have you ever given up something you had planned to help someone else?***

Jan put Marsha's needs first. Even though she'd looked forward to eating out with her friends, Jan knew Marsha needed someone to be with her before the surgery. Jan gave up her night out with her friends to spend time with Marsha and help her. Jan put Marsha first.

Our best friend Jesus put our needs first when God sent him to save us. Jesus could have stayed in heaven. Jesus could have walked away from the cross and the pain he would suffer there. But Jesus loves us so much he died on the cross to save us from the punishment we deserve because of our sins. Because Jesus died and then rose from death for us, we have God's forgiveness and a home in heaven.

The Bible verse in today's reading reminds us to put others first. ***(Reread the Bible verse.)*** Jesus put us first and God wants us to show this love in the same way.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you are our loving Savior. You love us so much you left heaven to suffer and die for us. You gave your life to save us from sin. Thank you for putting our needs first. Help us see when others need help. Help us put their needs before what we want to do. Help us share your love with them. In your name we pray. Amen.