

Apr 09, 2017



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

You can measure your love for God by showing your love for others

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

To give up yourself for others  
Seems like such a tough thing to do;  
But that's how you can know  
for sure That God's love is working through you. —Branon

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*Because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me*  
(Phil 2:30 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 11, 2010)*

**Series: The Love of God**

**UNIT: The Work of God's Love**

**NEXT WEEK**

**No Class**

**Easter - Resurrection Day**

## **Saving Love John 3:1-16**

### **Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson helps us to recognize that Jesus' death for us is the supreme action of **Saving Love**. The **study's aim** is to love Jesus Christ more in view of His death on our behalf. The **study's application** is to grow in appreciation of Jesus' love which secured our salvation.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### **Lesson Introduction and Background**

It was a dark day for Christ's followers. Their beloved Jesus was hanging on a cross like a common criminal. He writhed as His body dripped blood from the wounds inflicted by Roman soldiers. Before those who were present, He gave one last gasp. Then He was gone. Stunned sorrow filled their hearts. It is easy to see this story through the disciples' point of view. We often focus on the agony of Christ while He suffered on that cross, and this is altogether fitting. However, there was another participant in this story—God the Father. In the midst of these events, it is easy to forget that the Father was present every second. The Gospel accounts all record that Jesus cried out to Him, and we know that God did not intervene. Some skeptics may want to tell us that God was absent. He was not. Stop a minute. Most of us have children in our lives, whether they are our own, a sibling's, or even a neighbor's. Picture one of these children in your mind. Now imagine that innocent child being sentenced to death. The child is experiencing physical distress. Imagine that with a single word you have the power to end the child's pain. In the midst of it, that child looks up and begs you to save him or her. Could you stand by and let that child die? Most of you are probably saying, "Absolutely not!" Yet that is what God the Father was called upon to do. Scripture tells us that God could have commanded His angels to rescue His Son (Matt. 26:53) and set Him free. The One who created the universe could have rained fire down on those who were persecuting Jesus; instead, He chose to let Jesus die. At first glance, this does not seem to be the act of a loving Father, does it? However, Christ's death had a purpose. God the Father knew that it was the only way to save a people for Himself (cf. John 14:6). If there had been another way to do it, the Father would undoubtedly have done it. So why did the Father do it? The answer rests in His love. The Father loves us. He loved us while we were still lost in our sins, and He desires a personal relationship with people. God's love is so great and so fierce that He made the ultimate sacrifice. Was it easy? If you are a parent, you already know the answer to that question. Watching a child suffer is every parent's worst nightmare. Good parents want their children to be healthy and happy. So we should not think of God as being indifferent. Even though the Father knew what would happen next, it was still a great sorrow to Him to let Jesus die. When was the last time you considered what God the Father endured on the day of Christ's crucifixion? If you are like me, it has been a while. I get caught up in the emotions of the earthly participants. I forget that our Heavenly Father had real emotions that day and that He bore a great sorrow. This Easter, take a moment and think about the Father's love. When you thank Jesus for your salvation, do not forget to thank your Heavenly Father as well. He was willing to endure the worst to give us His best—eternity with Him.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### Teaching About Saving Love (John 3:1-8)

*Saving love is about who Jesus is (1-2)*

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt 16:13-16)

Jesus is the one true Messiah (Luke 7:18-23)

Jesus laid down His life for us (1 John 3:16)

Jesus through love provided life through Himself (1 John 4:9-10)

*Saving love is about being born again (3-4)*

Being born again can't be bought (Acts 8:17-22)

Being born again is receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-3)

Being born again is explained in God's Word (1 Peter 1:22-23)

Being born again happens because of God's mercy (Titus 3:4-6)

*Saving love is spiritual (5-6)*

Spirituality that is often misunderstood (1 Cor 3:1-3)

Spiritual words expressing spiritual truths (1 Cor 2:12-14)

Spiritual struggle with spiritual forces (Eph 6:12)

*Saving love is about the Holy Spirit (7-8)*

Love through the Holy Spirit because of belief in Jesus (1 John 3:22-24)

Love through the Holy Spirit because God put love in our hearts (Rom 5:5)

Love through the Holy Spirit because the Spirit is a Spirit of love (2 Tim 1:7)

Love through the Holy Spirit confirms our living in God (1 John 4:15-18)

### Application of Saving Love (John 3:9-16)

*The application is not in human knowledge and wisdom (9-12)*

Because God frustrates human wisdom and intelligence (1 Cor 1:18-21)

Because faith is empowered through the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:3-7)

Because they are foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor 3:18-19)

Because true wisdom and understanding comes from God (Eph 1:6-9)

*The application is in Jesus' sacrifice (13-14)*

Through Jesus' sacrifice because of its power of atonement (Rom 3:21-25)

Through Jesus' sacrifice that provided the satisfaction of the penalty for the sins (1 John 2:2)

Through Jesus' sacrifice through His obedience to sacrifice His body (Heb 10:8-10)

*The application is in belief and faith in Jesus (15)*

Because through the provision and confession of faith, one is saved (Rom 10:8-10)

Because the one who believes in Jesus is not condemned (John 3:17-18)

Because of the justification that is provided through faith (Gal 2:16)

Because belief and faith in God provides righteousness (Rom 3:22)

Because belief and faith brings peace with God through Jesus (Rom 5:1)

Because Christians become children of God through belief and faith (Gal 3:26)

*The application is provided because of God's love (16)*

It is through that love that God allowed Jesus to die for us (Rom 5:8)

It is through that love that salvation appeared (Titus 3:4-5)

It is through that love that Christians are able to live through Jesus (1 John 4:9)