

INTRO

- Share a highlight from the winter break, and/or something you really love to do in winter.

READ

John 3:16-17

REFLECT & RESPOND

John 3:16 is an excellent summary of the good news and God's mission on earth. It reveals the scope, initiative, depth, invitation, and goal of God's love.

The SCOPE of the Father's Love

"For God so loved the *world*..."

Q: What does it mean that God loves everyone, including people we find hard to love? What implication does this have for us?

The INITIATIVE of the Father's Love

"That He gave..."

Q: What are ways we can take the initiative in showing God's love to others this week, before they ask or deserve it?

The DEPTH of the Father's Love

"...His one and only *Son*..."

Q: In what ways might God's mission—extending His love and salvation to others—cost you personally?

The INVITATION of the Father's Love

"...that *whoever* believes in Him..."

Q: Why is God's love an invitation rather than something forced? Is there something you know or believe about God but have not fully "received" personally?

The GOAL of the Father's Love

"...shall not perish but have *eternal life*."

For John, eternal life is less about an endless existence, but rather relational (Jn 17:3) and a present experience of the quality of life to come.

Q: How would you define what makes life good? How does God's offer of life through union with Christ reshape that?

— —

God's mission doesn't start with us. Mission is all about the Father's love *for* you and *through* you to others. Remember:

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

So,

Who is God inviting you to love and take intentional steps toward beyond your comfort zone?

What cost are you willing to bear to participate in His mission in 2026?

PRAY

- Thank God for His love first received.
- Ask for courage to love proactively and sacrificially.
- Pray for someone you feel prompted to reach out to this week.
- Ask God to guide the week of prayer and fasting, anchoring hearts in His love.