

# Revealing the God Colour of Love

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## Preparation

Prepare a display of items that express love. Pictures of family, roses, Bible, cross, family ring, etc. When everyone has arrived, 'on the sly' remove one or two of the items.

## Welcome

After the opening, refer to items on the table. Ask the women if they notice which items are missing. If someone was observant in noticing the missing item(s) ask them to name them — have a prize ready!

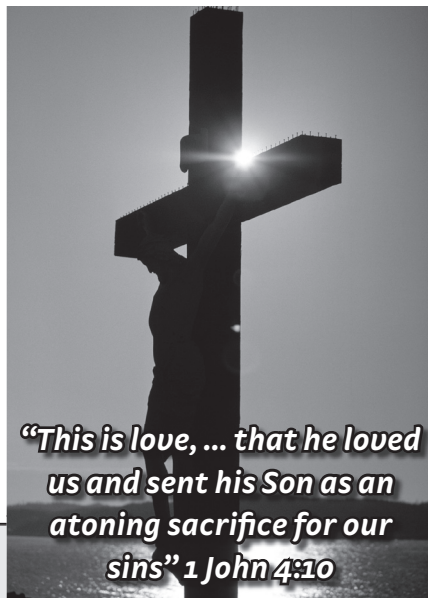
## Chorus Sing

- *Isn't He Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful*
- *Father In Heaven, How We Love You*
- *Oh How He Loves You And Me*
- *Thy Loving Kindness Is Better Than Life*

## Activity: Love Links Paper Chain

To encourage love in action create a paper chain of 'love' messages to be taken to someone who is ill, is absent, or who needs

encouragement. In advance of the meeting, cut strips of construction paper, 2x8 inches. Have the women write their message(s) on the strips of paper, leaving 1" free on each end, then glue them together to form a chain. Ask for volunteers to deliver these chains to the women being remembered.



**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 36:5-10

**Leader:** "How deep and wide your love, O God."

**Response:** O God, your steadfast love is as great as all heavens, your faithfulness reaches beyond all clouds; your justice is solid like the mountains, your decisions as full of wisdom as the oceans are with water; people and animals alike are in your care, how precious is your constant love.

**Leader:** "How deep and wide your love, O God."

**Response:** We take shelter in the shadows of your wings. Feast on the abundant food you provide, and drink from the river of your goodness; you are the source of all life, and because of your light we can see; continue to pour out your unfailing love to those who know you; never stop saving those who long to do your will.

**Leader:** "How deep and wide your love, O God".

*(Lectern Resources, January/February/March 1995, pg 9)*

**Solo:** SASB 182/TB 364, *O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus*

### **Devotional**

February is called the love month, a special time set apart for honouring those we love. Hallmark expresses love through a variety of



cards. Some are sent for fun, but for the most part, cards expressing love are sent for sentimental reasons. God wanted to say 'I love You' and did so in a way that has changed the world forever. He sent not just a written message, rather He demonstrated His love by sending His only Son into the world to love us. In 1 John 4:10 we read "This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins". This is indeed the highest kind of love we will ever experience. It's a love beyond the human love our families express to us.

John wrote "Greater love hath no one than this that a man lay down His life for his friends". This is the kind of love that welled up in the heart of God for mankind. A love that was willing to go to any length to be expressed.

We all need to experience love in our lives. A baby needs a mother's love. Children need the love of parents in order to build a foundation for their lives that encompasses love. As our parents grow older in years they need the love and care of their children. We all need the love of family and friends. Every expression of love is important, yet the love of Christ is greater, and more precious than any other. The card Christ wrote, to the world, as the WORD who became flesh, expresses the deepest love we will ever know.

When we experience God's love deeply, we are better able to fulfil the greatest commandment of all as recorded in Mark 12: 30 -31 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this; "Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these".

The overflow of God's love in our lives can be expressed toward our neighbour. There are many ways to show love, such as speaking words of encouragement. Listening to the broken hearted and praying for the lonely. Write a card expressing your love and concern.

The words written by Miriam Richards in song #706 found in The Salvation Army song book poignantly express that "Just where He needs me my Lord has placed me."

The love God extends to us must be like a continuous stream of water. Water that refreshes and encourages the soul of another. May we all find a meaningful way of reaching out to our neighbours in love this coming week.

**Song:** SASB 47/TB 738, *God's Love Is As High As The Heavens*

### **Closing prayer and refreshments**