

Love in Action

6-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Be a Good Neighbor

Day 1 — A Faith You Can See

Scripture: James 2:14–17

James asks us to imagine encountering someone who lacks food or adequate clothing. If we offer kind words but do nothing to meet the need, what good have our words accomplished? James is teaching that genuine faith eventually becomes visible. When we have experienced the love of Jesus, that love begins to shape how we respond to the people around us. It moves beyond what we believe in our minds or feel in our hearts and enters the ordinary details of our lives. We begin to notice needs, offer what we have, and allow ourselves to be interrupted. We will not always get it right, but genuine faith will increasingly shape the way we live and love the people around us.

Practice: Ask God to help you notice one need around you today. When you see it, resist the temptation to assume someone else will help. Take whatever small step is available to you.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you that your love for me is more than words. Help my faith become visible through the way I respond to the people around me. Give me eyes to notice and the willingness to act. Amen.

Day 2 — Love What Is in Front of You

Scripture: Luke 10:33–35

The Samaritan did not begin his day planning to care for an injured stranger. The opportunity appeared unexpectedly along the road. Loving his neighbor required him to stop, draw near, and respond to the need in front of him.

Sometimes we miss opportunities to love because we are waiting for something bigger or more impressive. Love in action usually begins with the person already in front of us: a family member who needs our attention, a coworker carrying an unseen burden, a neighbor who could use some help, or someone who simply needs to know they have been noticed. We do not have to solve every problem. Who need to be aware of the person or opportunity that God has placed in front of us today.

Practice: Slow down during one ordinary part of your day. Put away distractions, pay attention to the people around you, and ask: “What would love look like here?”

Prayer: God, keep me from becoming so busy that I overlook the people you have placed in front of me. Help me slow down, draw near, and respond with compassion. Amen.

Day 3 — Do Not Wait for the Perfect Moment

Scripture: Galatians 6:9–10

We often have good intentions. We plan to send the message, make the call, offer the apology, bring the meal, or check on someone, but then life becomes busy, and what we intended to do gets delayed or forgotten. Have you been guilty of this before?

Paul encourages us not to become weary in doing good and tells us to take advantage of every opportunity we receive. Love does not need perfect timing, unlimited resources, or complete certainty. It simply needs a willing beginning. The step available to us today may feel small, but small acts of faithfulness matter. A short conversation can encourage someone. A simple invitation can make someone feel included. A few minutes of help can lighten another person’s burden. When God brings someone to mind, that may be an invitation to stop waiting and begin acting.

Practice: Think of one loving action you have been meaning to take. Before the day ends, take the first step, even if all you can do is send a message or put something on the calendar.

Prayer: Father, forgive me for the times my good intentions never become actions. Give me the courage to begin with what I have and the opportunity in front of me. Amen.

Day 4 — Let Your Light Shine

Scripture: Matthew 5:14–16

Jesus tells his followers to let their light shine so that others may see their good deeds and glorify their Father in heaven. Our actions are meant to be visible, but they are not meant to make us the center of attention. They are meant to help people catch a glimpse of God's goodness.

We do not love others to receive praise, prove our goodness, or make ourselves feel important. We love because Jesus has loved us. Sometimes that means serving quietly without recognition. At other times, it means allowing others to see our actions so they can understand why we live differently. Our goal is to live in such a way that quietly points to Jesus.

Practice: Do something kind today without expecting recognition or repayment. As you do it, quietly ask God to use your action to reveal something about his love.

Prayer: Jesus, let your light be seen through my life. Keep me from seeking attention for myself, and use my actions to help others recognize your goodness. Amen.

Day 5 — Offering What You Have

Scripture: Mark 12:41–44

Jesus noticed a widow place two small coins into the temple offering. Others gave much larger amounts, but Jesus recognized the significance of what she offered. Her gift appeared small, yet it reflected deep trust and devotion.

We may hesitate to act because what we have feels insufficient. We may not have enough time, money, wisdom, or ability to make the difference we want to make. Jesus does not ask us to offer what someone else has. He asks us to faithfully offer what he has placed in our hands. A small gift, a simple meal, an encouraging word, a few minutes of attention, or a willingness to listen can become an expression of Christ's love. We are not responsible for doing everything, but we are responsible for being faithful with what God has given us.

Practice: Identify something God has given you that you can share today, like your time, attention, encouragement, resources, skills, or presence, and bless someone with it.

Prayer: God, help me stop focusing on what I do not have. Show me what you have already placed in my hands, and teach me to offer it faithfully and generously. Amen.

Day 6 — A Way of Life

Scripture: John 13:34–35

Jesus gave his followers a new command: to love one another as he loves them. This kind of love becomes one of the clearest ways the world recognizes those who belong to him.

A single act of kindness can be meaningful, but Jesus invites us into a life increasingly shaped by love. This happens through repeated, ordinary choices: listening patiently, forgiving quickly, showing hospitality, speaking with kindness, sharing what we have, and remaining present when walking away would be easier. We will not do this perfectly, but each small act forms us into people who reflect Jesus more clearly. Love in action is a way of life shaped by the love we have received from Jesus.

Practice: Ask: "Where might God be inviting me to take one small step of love today?" Write down your answer, choose a specific action, and decide when you will take it.

Prayer: Jesus, you have loved me faithfully, generously, and sacrificially. Let the love I have received from you become the way I live. Show me the next small step, and give me the courage to take it. Amen.

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