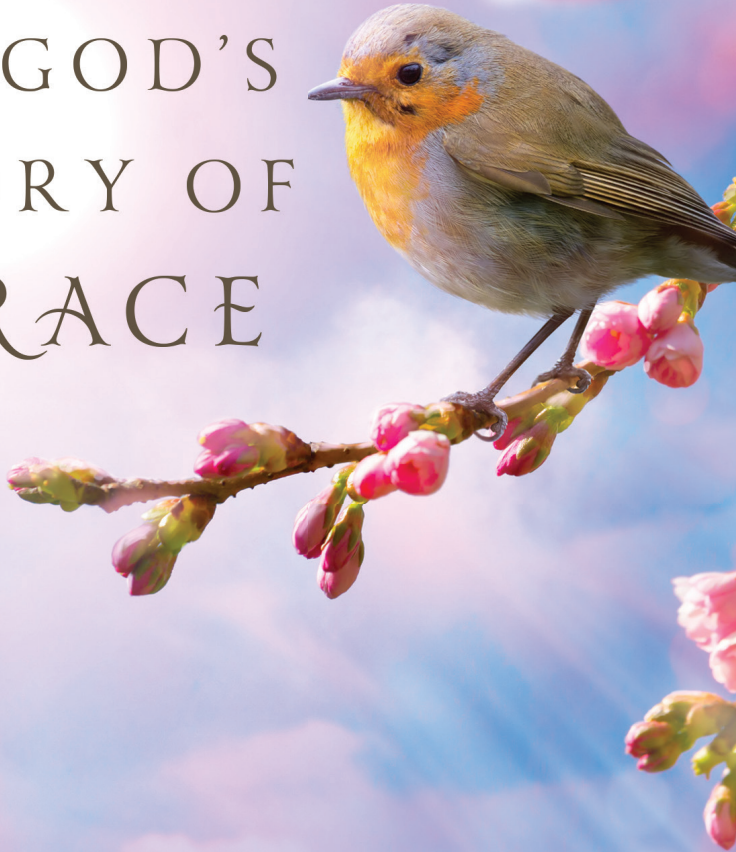


"Continues . . . to teach us more about God's story and how we are part of that eternal story." —Jane Patete

LOVING
IN GOD'S
STORY OF
GRACE



Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage

LOVING IN
GOD'S
STORY OF
GRACE

LIVING STORY BOOKS

Learning God's Story of Grace

Living God's Story of Grace

Loving in God's Story of Grace

LOVING IN
GOD'S
STORY OF
GRACE

Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage



P U B L I S H I N G
P.O. BOX 817 • PHILLIPSBURG • NEW JERSEY 08865-0817

© 2014 by Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—except for brief quotations for the purpose of review or comment, without the prior permission of the publisher, P&R Publishing Company, P.O. Box 817, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865-0817.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from *ESV Bible*® (*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*®). Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-59638-847-5 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-59638-848-2 (ePub)

ISBN: 978-1-59638-849-9 (Mobi)

Printed in the United States of America

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	7
Introduction	9
1. Love Defined: God Is Love	15
<i>The All-Encompassing Love of God</i>	
2. If God Is Love, Who Are We?	31
<i>The Loving God and His Adulterous People: Hosea</i>	
3. Forgiven Much, We Love Much	49
<i>Jesus, Simon, and the Forgiven Woman: Luke 7</i>	
4. Freed from Shame: Glorifying God	67
<i>Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: John 4</i>	
5. Forging New Community: Loving Neighbors and Strangers	83
<i>Jesus and the Samaritan Neighbor: Luke 10</i>	
6. Found by God: Loving as Ministers of Reconciliation	99
<i>Jesus, the Lost Sons, and the Waiting Father: Luke 15</i>	
7. Feasting on Love	117
<i>Sharing Our Stories as a Gift of Worship</i>	
Epilogue	129
Works Cited	133

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The main and minor characters in our stories put a face to the incomprehensible love of God. God has written powerful love letters to me through the kindnesses of family, friends, colleagues, teachers, preachers, doctors, physical therapists, readers, and sisters. My heartfelt thanks to you all.

I must thank by name the ones who love me day in and day out, whether I deserve it or not:

My beloved husband of thirty-one years, Kip. You image the steadfast, tender, and strong love of God to me.

And our four children, Robert, Mary Elizabeth, Jackie, and Kirby. You have shown me the steadfast love of God in the way you love me and love one another.

INTRODUCTION

Love.

Philosophers, poets, moviemakers, and ordinary people have searched to understand and explain love since the beginning of time. A Google search on “studies of love 2012” reveals that the contemporary world thinks of love almost exclusively in terms of romantic or sexual love, although some studies focus on the brain’s response to a mother’s love or supportive relationships. Following current evolutionary science, it is popular to talk about love as a “primitive human instinct.” One MIT professor has determined that romantic love is best understood in the context of economic resources.

In the midst of such cultural conversation, we must ask, to quote Shakespeare out of context, is there an “ever-fixed mark” of love? Is it possible to understand love, and more importantly, is it possible to live love in a world seemingly desperate for it?

The apostle Paul says it is not only possible; it is essential. In 1 Corinthians 13, often called the “love chapter,” Paul shows the Corinthians their lack of love by describing its true characteristics. Paul begins with the strong pronouncement, “If I . . . do not have love, I am nothing” (v. 2 NIV), and concludes with the confident declaration, “Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love” (v. 13, NIV). Sandwiched in between these two statements is a long definition of love in about fourteen parts, depending on how you count. Every time I hear this passage read at a wedding, I wonder if the couple truly believes they will love like this

INTRODUCTION

(I know I did!). Personally, I fail the love test with the requirements of “patient and kind” (v. 4), and I’m guessing everyone would admit they sometimes “insist on [their] own way” (v. 5). And as nice as it sounds to say love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” (1 Cor. 13:7), who can really live this out?

There is only one who can and has: the subject of our study and the object of our worship—God. God can love like this, does love like this, and amazingly, empowers us by his grace to love like this. Indeed, without love we are *nothing*, but with God’s love, as we shall see in this study, we become *something*.

GOD’S STORY OF GRACE

Over the course of the last two studies in the Living Story series, we have learned the deep implications of God’s story of grace as outlined in four parts:

- ☼ **Creation:** Humans are created in dignity, in the image of God, with meaning and purpose.
- ☼ **Fall:** When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they brought sin into the world. After the fall, we were alienated from one another and from God. Without God’s intervention, humans are condemned to live out a small story of self-seeking love.
- ☼ **Redemption:** Redeemed and restored through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lived, died, and was raised to new life, we become “new creations.” In this story of restoration, we are being transformed into people of faith, hope, and love. Our greatest joy is to bring glory to God by living and loving in his story of grace.
- ☼ **Consummation:** We await the day when Christ will return and complete his kingdom work, removing all evil and

sin from his kingdom. At that time, a new chapter will begin of living with and loving God forever.

LOVING IN GOD'S STORY

In this study, we consider the ultimate joy of our lives in God's story of grace—to love as God loved us. John forcefully and succinctly summarizes love: “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Through the entire narrative of grace, the theme of God's love transforming his beloved prevails: “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

In this final installment of the Living Story series, we will see how faith, hope, and love come together as the core elements in a life of worship.

- ❁ Faith means trusting in God for life and hope rather than other gods.
- ❁ Hope means believing that God is doing brand new things in the midst of wrecked shalom.¹
- ❁ Love refers to the process of transformation that Jesus' love effects in us. We love as we live in and tell our redemption story to a broken world sorely in need of a life-transforming story, the good news of the gospel.

We will begin our study by searching the depths and heights of God's love. As we will see, God's love exceeds the deepest emotion described in any love song and defies any attempt at calculation by MIT researchers. It is everlasting, covenantal, self-sacrificial, pleasurable, and merciful, among many other things.

1. For newcomers to the Living Story series, *shalom* is most simply defined as “the way things ought to be.” It refers to the state of wholeness and flourishing in which God created humans and the cosmos. Humans were made to worship and enjoy God, to give and receive in relationship, and to work and bring life for the sake of God's glory. The fall wrecked this shalom; all of creation awaits the day of restoration of lost shalom.

INTRODUCTION

God's love, far from economical, does not conform to our limited human expectations. The story of grace tells us that God's holiness and wrath at unrighteousness and sin cannot be separated from his love. Indeed, it is right in the midst of his wrath at our unrighteousness that we see his incomprehensible mercy. Knowing that humans are helpless to help themselves, God sends his sinless Son, Jesus Christ, as the final sacrifice for our sins.

To understand how God's love dramatically changes people, we will look at stories from Scripture and from everyday life. We will hear of people who forgive more readily, share their stories for God's glory, and love neighbors, strangers, and even enemies. In the process, we will become love stories with skin on, moving into the world to bear witness to God's loving grace.

THE GUIDE

This Bible study aims to bring the transforming power of the gospel to bear on your life. As you interact with this material, I hope you will experience the freedom to live in God's story of grace with deeper faith, greater hope, and more passionate love. The format is designed to take you into the grand narrative of Scripture, your story, and others' stories by giving you opportunities to pray about and live what you are studying. The following sections will help you go deeper:

Engaging Scripture. Here you will focus on a passage or story from Scripture and answer questions for insight, reflection, and discussion. This draws us to worship God and follow Christ.

Theological Themes. This section discusses a theme that God consistently reveals through Scripture.

Entering Your Story. This section takes the passage and shifts the focus to what God is writing in your story. Here you will be given opportunities to write and tell your story.

Living Story. This section invites you to reflect on how you will live out the gospel in the topic being explored.

Praying Story. The final section offers an opportunity to write or say prayers regarding the story.

Here are a few suggestions to help you get the most out of the Bible study:

Just do it! Stoics like my pre-redeemed self embraced this Nike slogan long ago, and it didn't always lead to love. While I don't want you to fall into the trap of doing duty, I do hope you will engage the material. If the only thing you can do is read the Scripture, make sure you do that, because the Bible, the Living Word of God, unlike any self-help book, really does transform you! But please, do more.

Interact with the questions. The study is broken into five chunks of material to cover in a five-day period. This gives you two extra days! Use the space in the book, or, if you need more room, get a journal or create a file on your computer for walking through this guide. Let the questions wander around in your brain as you commute to work or clean the kitchen. And then write some things down. You may think you don't need to write anything down, but try it—new understanding grows as we write.

Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit, whom God has given as “The Helper” to come alongside you, to be your primary guide in the process of learning and living story. Specific exercises for prayer are provided in each chapter.

INTRODUCTION

Tell and listen. Each individual reflects God's story of grace in a unique way. Gift others by sharing your responses and your story. If you tend to be more talkative, remember to leave opportunities for the quieter ones to speak. Always listen carefully to others.

Enjoy. We were made to worship, to give and receive delight in God's story of grace. My deepest hope is that you will enjoy being transformed by the gospel, the amazing true story in which we are called to live and love.

May God richly bless us all as we learn the narrative of life and love in Jesus Christ, which God is telling everywhere, all the time!

1

LOVE DEFINED: GOD IS LOVE

*The All-Encompassing
Love of God*

KEY THEMES

- ✿ God's love is steadfast, covenantal, merciful, gracious, and sacrificial.
- ✿ Knowing God's sacrificial love in Christ transforms us into people who love.

DAY 1

The assignment was simple yet seemingly impossible to me: draw an aspect of God's character. (It might have felt easier if I could draw!) It was the first night of a course called Spirituality and the Arts, and we had ten minutes to complete the exercise, so I picked up my pencil and began sketching. What I attempted to draw was a small, faded brown 1989 Subaru with a female

LOVE DEFINED: GOD IS LOVE

The supreme expression of God's goodness is still, however, the amazing grace and inexpressible love that shows kindness by saving sinners who deserve only condemnation: saving them, moreover, at the tremendous cost of Christ's death on Calvary.

—J.I. Packer, *Concise Theology*

stick figure sliding down its hood. Large, strong, sinewy arms encircled the whole scene.

Earlier that day, during a pleasant morning jog on a nature trail that wound through a Seattle office park, I had been struck by that same brown Subaru. A truck-driver had waved me across the crosswalk, but neither he nor I saw the little vehicle moving in the lane next to him; nor could its driver see me. When I finally did see the car approaching, too late, watching in horror, even as my left side was falling on the hood, I remember two things—first, the sentence that played in slow motion through my mind: “So this is how I’m going to die.” And then, sitting on my rear, cross-legged, just as I had landed on the asphalt, repeating to myself over and over, “I’m not dead. I’m not dead.”

What I wanted to convey that night in class was the sovereign, ever-present, shielding, powerful love of God I now knew in a brand new way. The Bible asserts that *love* cannot be defined without God: “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Love is a fixed reality about the nature of God—and God is a fixed reality about the nature of love. The narrative of Scripture characterizes God’s love as, among other things, steadfast, covenantal, merciful, gracious, sacrificial, and transformational. Love is God’s prodigally generous, contra-conditional, eternal gift. And it is in this love alone that we as humans know love.

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

The entire narrative of Scripture is built on the undergirding theme of God’s extraordinary, redeeming, covenantal love. God

does many things: he creates, he rules, he disciplines, and in all of his activity, he never ceases to be loving. In this chapter we will focus on five major features of God’s love. To do so, we will take a walk through many books of Scripture, for God’s love is woven through it all. The books represent many genres, including history, law, poetry, prophecy, gospel, and epistle.

1. Read Exodus 34:5-7.
 - a. What actions and characteristics describe aspects of God’s love?

 - b. Exodus 34:7 states that God will not leave the guilty unpunished, that he punishes sin to the third and fourth generation. How would you respond to the suggestion made by some that this punishment is “unfair”?

Hesed Love

2. The Hebrew word *hesed* (Ex. 34:6-7) is often translated as God’s “unfailing” or “steadfast” love. (ESV, NRSV, NLT use *steadfast* and *unfailing*; NIV uses *love* alone.)
 - a. Read Exodus 15:13 and Psalm 89:1-4. What does the Lord’s steadfast love lead him to do?
 - b. Read Psalm 136. How long does God’s steadfast love last?
 - c. How does God’s *hesed* love differ from human love?
 - d. How does steadfast, unfailing, promise-keeping love affect you? (What is your response to this kind of love?)

- ✿ Choose a verse from any of the passages in this chapter to memorize. Write it here and tell why you chose it.

DAY 2

COVENANTAL LOVE

Closely associated with God's steadfast love is his covenantal love—his powerful and perfectly faithful commitment to protect his people. As we saw in *Living God's Story of Grace*, God made and kept a covenant with Abraham, telling him that he would be the father of a multitude of nations. Throughout Scripture, God makes covenants with his people, who often break them.

In Exodus and Deuteronomy, God restates his covenantal love to Israel.

1. Read Deuteronomy 7:6-11.
 - a. What does this passage tell us about God's love for Israel?

LOVE DEFINED: GOD IS LOVE

The wrath of God and his love are not to be set over against one another. His wrath was the expression of his love, no less than his justice was. For love is not soft indulgence; nor is the wrath of God a display of temper.

—H. H. Rowley, *The Faith of Israel*

- b. What does God promise to do for his people? What response is expected from them?

PARADOXICAL LOVE: MERCY AND WRATH

2. As we saw in *Learning God's Story of Grace*, God steadfastly holds up his end of the covenant, while the Israelites repeatedly rebel, forgetting his miracles and despising his provision. The only appropriate response of a holy creator God to rebellion is wrath—righteous anger against sin. The paradox of God's wrath is that it is actually a loving response to his people for two reasons: first, because evil and sin actually destroy our hearts, and second, because our iniquity keeps us separated from the only relationship that will truly satisfy—our relationship with our holy Creator.
3. Read Psalm 78:17-22.
 - a. What kindled God's wrath against his people?

- b. Based on these verses, how would you respond to someone who said, “God is not loving. Even the Bible says he is wrathful and destroys his people.”
4. Read Psalm 78:38. How does God himself deal with his wrath? What do you see about God’s love here?

GRACIOUS LOVE AND THE NEW COVENANT

The Israelites go their own way, worshiping false gods time and again, but God, because of his steadfast love, mercy, and grace, makes a way for relationship, atoning for their iniquity. (A quick definition of terms: To *atone* means to make up for by providing a sacrifice. *Iniquity* in the Bible points to the broader state of guilt borne by sinners. *Wickedness* and *evil* are also used

LOVE DEFINED: GOD IS LOVE

to refer to iniquity.) Ultimately, God's love leads him to make the unimaginable sacrifice, giving Jesus his Son as the Messiah who would live a perfect life, die a saving death, and rise from the dead to restore God's kingdom of love. Though time and time again God's people rebel, remembering his own steadfast love, he makes provision for the covenant to be kept.

5. Read Jeremiah 31:1-2, 31-34.
 - a. What aspects of God's love are mentioned in these verses?

b. What does God's love for his people lead him to do?

- ❁ Review your memory verse by writing it here or sharing it with someone.

DAY 3

The new covenant will be kept fully by Jesus Christ the Savior. Its fulfillment shows God's gracious, atoning, and forgiving love. Grace has been explained by using the acronym G.R.A.C.E.: God's Riches at Christ's Expense. Let's consider the riches that God freely gives in Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10.
 - a. What was the spiritual condition of God's children before Christ died (vv. 1-3)?

 - b. What aspects of God's love led him to send his perfect, sinless Son to die for rebellious children (vv. 4-10)?

 - c. What effect does God's gracious gift of redemption in Christ have on our lives (vv. 5-7, 10)? How have you seen God's love change you or others?

LOVE DEFINED: GOD IS LOVE

2. Read 1 John 4:7-12.

a. How does John explain his assertion that “God is love” (vv. 9-10)?

b. According to John, how does God’s love change us (vv. 7, 11-12)?

c. What security, hope, or confidence do you receive from knowing the nature of God’s love?

- ☛ Review your memory verse by posting it on social media or writing it in a note or an email.

Theological Theme: Atonement

Atonement is one of those theological words that is really much simpler than it sounds. It is made up of two basic words, with a suffix: “at” “one” “-ment.” It refers to the “at-one-ness” between God and his people as a result of Christ’s sacrifice.

According to the covenant of law that God made with Moses and the Israelites, God’s people were required to keep the Ten Commandments. If they did not, they had to make “atonement”—a sacrifice for their sin—to restore relationship with God. There was a Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:34), when the priest sprinkled the blood of a sacrificial goat on the “atonement cover” in the Most Holy Place.

However, as Psalm 78:38 makes clear, this system of atonement would never be enough to make up for the Israelites’ repeated and rampant sin. The fact is, we are born sinners, whose hearts rebel against God (Rom. 3:23). A permanent sacrifice for sins was necessary for unrighteous people to be united with a holy God (Ps. 5:4–6; Rom. 1:18). This is why God sent his Son into the world to live and die for us. In his holiness and justice, God removed his own wrath by offering the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, his sinless Son (Rom. 3:25). In his death on the cross, Christ became our substitute and did for us what we were powerless to do ourselves—paid the debt for our sins (1 John 2:2; Heb. 9:28).

The result of the atonement is that we are reconciled to God, adopted as sons (1 John 3:1–2), created anew, and redeemed to bear Christ’s love into the world (2 Cor. 5:17–21).

It is one of the New Testament’s resounding paradoxes that it is God’s love that averts God’s wrath from us, and indeed that it is precisely in this averting of wrath that we see what real love is.

—Leon Morris, “1 John,” *New Bible Commentary*

DAY 4

ENTERING YOUR STORY

God is love; God's love changes humans. One of my favorite stories is of Mincaye, the murderer turned missionary.

He did not know that his tribe was nicknamed, by some, the "Aucas," which meant "naked savage." He did know that all of his life he had been taught to distrust and hate anyone who might threaten him, his family, or his territory. So he plunged the spear deeper. Yes, these men had dropped gifts from the strange gigantic flying machine, and his tribe had enjoyed them. But that didn't mean the intruders were welcome in tribal land. Mincaye and the others killed the men to keep them from stealing their women and burning their homes.

So goes part one of the story of Mincaye, the young Waodani Indian of the Amazon tribe. The second part is far more astounding. Some sixty years after Mincaye killed the white invader, he travels the world as a missionary speaking about the God that white man came to tell him about. He does so with Steve Saint, the white man's son. A few years after five missionaries refused to defend their lives with the guns they had, two women visited the Waodani tribe to show them the love of Jesus. They lived among the tribe, healing and teaching, and telling about the God who made a way to end the violence. It was this love that drastically changed "violent savages" into a spiritually transformed people.¹

1. The information on Mincaye and Steve Saint throughout this day comes from the following sources: Steven Curtis Chapman and Scotty Smith, *Restoring Broken Things: What Happens When We Catch a Vision of the New World Jesus Is Creating* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007); Michael O'Sullivan, "Friendship: An Incredible Act of Forgiveness," *Washington Post*, January 20, 2006, available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/19/AR2006011901309.html>; and Brian Mansfield, "Chapman Show's High Note Is Salute to Reconciliation," *USA Today*, April 18, 2002, available online at <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/life/music/2002/2002-04-18-chapman.htm>. To hear Mincaye tell this story yourself, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JpkJzIn7k>.

As I hear Mincaye speak, I am struck by the reality that I too am a “violent savage.” I have speared my husband with my biting sarcasm, my children with my hot temper, and strangers with my harsh judgment. And yet, because of how God’s love is working in me, I can see the glimmers of a new compassion and mercy rising in my heart; I feel a stab in my own heart at thoughts, words, and deeds that harm a soul, and I turn quickly to confess my sins to the God who loves me unfailingly.

Choose one of the following topics to reflect on your story.

1. Tell about a time someone communicated God’s steadfast, covenantal, gracious, merciful, or disciplining love in such a way that you understood it more deeply.
 - a. Who was this person? What did they do to show this love?

 - b. How did their love change you?

2. Steve Saint says that when his father was killed, his world was shattered, and he could see no way that God could bring good out of his loss. When Steve was eight, Mincaye, who had become a follower of Christ, asked Steve's mother who would teach her son all the skills he needed to survive in the Amazon (like making poisonous darts!). Steve's mother asked Mincaye who he thought should do it, and Mincaye offered himself. In a remarkable reversal, the man who killed Steve Saint's father became his substitute father.²
 - a. Tell about how God redeemed a tragic story in a remarkable or unexpected way.

- b. What sacrifices were made, and who made them? What reconciliation or restoration resulted?

2. Discussed in Nell Minow, "Learning to Forgive," *Beliefnet*, accessed January 2, 2014, <http://www.beliefnet.com/Entertainment/Movies/2006/01/Learning-To-Forgive.aspx#>; and in O'Sullivan, "Friendship," *Washington Post*.

To come to see that God's love is a deep, warm love—a love constantly lavished on us quite irrespective of our merits, a love that cost the cross—is to reach a turning point. It is impossible to experience this love and remain unchanged.

—Leon Morris, *Testaments of Love*

- ❁ Review your memory verse by writing it somewhere or saying it aloud. (If you have a smartphone, consider recording the verse and playing it back throughout the day.)

DAY 5

LIVING STORY

1. Begin to think about specific qualities of God's love that you would like to see grow in your life. Write some actions you could take that would demonstrate this characteristic. What power will you need to live this story?

Example: I would like to be more merciful. This would mean being more patient and waiting for God to carry out justice, not taking matters into my own hands (or tongue!). I will need to keep my mouth closed, and I need the strong reminders of the Holy Spirit to overrule my tendency to make quick judgments.

PRAYING STORY

Write specific prayer requests for yourself and your group members, especially seeking God to change your heart by drawing you to love in new ways. Together, pray for one another, or pray the following prayer aloud.

Lord God,

Your compassion and mercy is bolstered by your steadfastness, discipline, and covenantal love. Your grace supplied the sacrifice for sin. Your tenacious love softened our hearts to receive the only love that will truly make us free. May we humbly and happily shout your love to the nations. Give us the words to speak and the lives to bear your how-can-it-be love into a world desperate to know it. May your name be glorified!

Moving Forward

With a deeper understanding of the wondrous love of our Maker and Redeemer, we are ready to explore further. In the next chapter, we will consider the nature of humanity and find ourselves completely undeserving of God's love. The reality is that without God's compassionate and faithful intervention, we are wandering, faithless lovers, seeking whatever god seems to satisfy at the moment.

Love.



People have tried to understand it since the beginning of time—yet our culture yearns for love more than ever. Is it possible to understand and, more importantly, to live love in a world desperate for it?

Elizabeth Turnage reminds us that God alone can show and help us to understand love—for he not only loves us, but also empowers us to love as well.

In previous studies, Elizabeth has helped us to learn God's story of grace and to live it out ourselves. In this final Living Story book, she teaches us the ultimate joy of living in God's story of grace: loving as God loves us.

Beginning by searching the depths and heights of God's love, she moves on to show us where we fit in and how, by continuing to walk in God's story, we can learn to love too.

If you know God's story of grace and where your story fits in, learn how to take the next step and make your story bigger than it's ever been before!

"Continues the lyrical and engaging passion that Elizabeth brings to teaching us more about God's story and how we are part of that eternal story. With substantive questions and exposition she challenges the reader to learn more of the transforming power of the gospel and to grow in our worship of the God of grace."

—Jane Patete, Women's Ministries Coordinator, Presbyterian Church in America

"Elizabeth leads us to Scripture to understand God's covenant love, keeping us gospel centered at every point along the way. She first helps us to see how God has changed us by his love and urges us to reach out to those around us with his glorious love and grace."

—Sarah Ivill, Retreat and Conference Speaker; Author of the Bible Studies *Judges & Ruth* and *Revelation*

Elizabeth Reynolds Turnage founded Living Story to help people learn, live, and love in God's story of grace. She shares her deep passion for the gospel through her Bible studies, blog (www.elizabethturnage.com), and coaching groups.

www.prpbooks.com

COVER DESIGN BY TOBIAS' OUTERWEAR FOR BOOKS
www.tobiasdesign.com
PHOTO: © Konstantyn / fotolia.com

BIBLE STUDY / TOPICAL

ISBN: 978-1-59638-847-5

EAN



5 1 2 9 9

9 781596 1388475



PRP
PUBLISHING