

MESSAGE NOTES

Love Came Near

John 1:1-14 | Pastor Matthew

John 1:1-14 NLT: The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He existed in the beginning with God.
God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.
The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Love despises _____.

Christmas is the greatest story of love needing to be _____ that the world will ever know.

Love gets close for a _____.

How could this shape our love for _____?

Who in your life do you love, yet feels _____?

For the sake of blessing another, love goes _____.

1 John 4:10-11 NLT: This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

You don't have to get your act together to be in _____.

Love takes _____.

Receive the love of Christ, be changed by it, and then _____ it.

TALK IT OVER

These discussion questions can help you take today's sermon and help you apply it to your life or find your next steps. Use these questions with your family, with friends, or in your own personal devotion time.

1. Read John 1:1-14. Why does this Gospel begin "In the beginning" instead of at Jesus' birth?
2. What "facts" about "the Word" can you find in verses 1-5? Verses 10-18? What is John the Baptist's role as a witness?
3. Pastor Matthew said that "love despises distance." Can you think of a time when someone you loved was far away—either physically or relationally? What did/could you do to bring them closer?
4. Love takes risks and goes first. What risks did God take in sending Jesus to earth and going first in restoring the relationship between us and God? What risks can you take or have you taken for someone you love?

THIS WEEK IN THE BIBLE

Take today's message beyond Sunday and into the rest of your week. Read and reflect on these verses alone, with your family, or with a friend. Talk about how they apply to your life today or what God might be teaching you through His Word.

Sunday	John 1:1-14
Monday	Luke 2:1-7
Tuesday	Luke 2:8-20
Wednesday	1 John 4:10-11
Thursday	Isaiah 9:6
Friday	Psalms 86:15
Saturday	Romans 8:38-39

ONLINE NOTES

You can also take notes and engage with the message using the **YouVersion Bible** app. With **YouVersion Events** you can follow along with the message, take notes, read related Bible verses, ask questions, and more.