

Tuesdays Table

Does God love everyone? Do I have to?

The purpose of this resource is to help guide your engagement of the “Tuesdays at the Table” conversation. This is merely a frame for the conversation you’ll have or the raw materials to shape a conversation unique for the table you’re sitting at.

As you participate in the conversation...

- **Keep an open mind.**
- **Stay curious.**
- **Look for new ideas.**
- **Speak from your heart.**
- **Respect the ideas of others.**

Access a video of the “Does God love everyone? Do I have to?” conversation [here](#).

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:7-8a (NRSV)

Let us pray.

Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may love as you love!
That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all! – “Your Love” (unknown author)

Guiding questions.

- Does God love everyone? If so, where do we see the evidence of God’s love for everyone?
- How do you understand the love of God?
- How do you reconcile God’s love in the world with other Christians behaving in opposition to what we understand as faithful living?
- How is God’s love creative and generative?
- Where in the gospel do you see the interaction of God’s love with God’s people?
- Where in your community do you see people most marginalized or stigmatized? What message of God’s love do you think they need to hear?
- How do United Methodist understand the love God?
- How can institutions express the love of God?
- Where have you seen a misunderstanding of God’s love practiced in harmful ways?
- How do you express the love of God toward people you disagree with?

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Take action.

- Tell your small group the story of your baptism. If you don't remember your baptism, what do you remember of a baptism you've witnessed recently? What was moving? Who did you feel it included? Where did you see God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for each other?
- Where do you see people on the margins? What tangible message can you share with them about God's love? Reach out to an organization partnered with them to share that tangible message. (E.g., visiting the homebound, feeding the hungry, caring for the infirmed, marching against an injustice, lobbying for a specific societal change)
- The love of God is reciprocal – it is something we receive and we share. Reach out to a person who has shown God's love to you to give thanks (E.g. email, card, phone call, home visit).

Resources.

“On Love” (Sermon 139) by John Wesley

Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality, Africana Lessons on Religion, Racism, and Ending Gender Violence by Rev. Dr. Traci C. West

“The Preamble”, United Methodist Revised Social Principles