

THE PERSON OF JESUS

PARTICIPANT'S DEVOTIONALS
SAMPLE LESSON UNIT 3



A Study of Love

Unit III: Dependence on God

21. The Secret to Love

Day 1—Apply

1. Read John 5:19, 30, 6:38. 7:18, 28, 8:28, 12:49-50.
2. Pick out phrases from several of these verses—especially ones that convict you. Write them out on a 3 by 5 card that you take with you for the next three weeks. If you're driving, put it on the dashboard, if you're in an office, prop it up on your desk, if you're at home, place it where you'll see it several times a day.
3. As you look at the card during the day, pray and ask God to show you ways where you want your own way.

Day 2—Imagine

1. Keep reading your card!
2. Read John 7:1-9.
3. Put yourself in Jesus' brothers' shoes and tell this story from their point of view. What were your concerns about Jesus? What did he seem oblivious to? Try to capture the pride of those of us who love to give free advice!

Day 3—Reflect on “Demanding”

1. Keep reading your card!
2. Read John 7:1-9.
3. Why didn't the brothers see what they were like?

4. Why is it hard to see our self-will?
5. What do you notice about your self-will? What are its characteristics, its patterns?

Day 4—Reflect on Motivation

1. Keep reading your card!
2. Read John 5:41-42, 44.
3. What motivates Jesus?
4. If we were to get more of this motivation in our hearts, how might that transform our relationships?

Day 5—Apply

1. Keep reading your card!
2. Read Love Walked Among Us, p. 117-121a.
3. Write out a detailed incident in which you exerted self-will. Ideally, it is with someone you know well or live with. In close relationships, our self-will comes out the most. The subtle examples are the best where we just add a word, a phrase or a comment that has some “push” in it, some demand for the other person to conform to our will.

Day 6—Little Victories

1. Keep reading your card!
2. Write out a little victory you had this week in the area of self-will. Remember, the first step of change is just seeing the need for change. Often, we become discouraged when we see ourselves in a new light, and we give up. But real change almost always feels discouraging in the beginning because we can't change unless we see the bad. That is always the first step.

Day 7—Anticipate

1. Read Luke 5:15-16.
2. What might this aspect of Jesus have to do with the surrender of his will to his Father?