

GOD'S LOVE BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

January 13, 2024

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Ephesians 2:14-22

Memory Verse

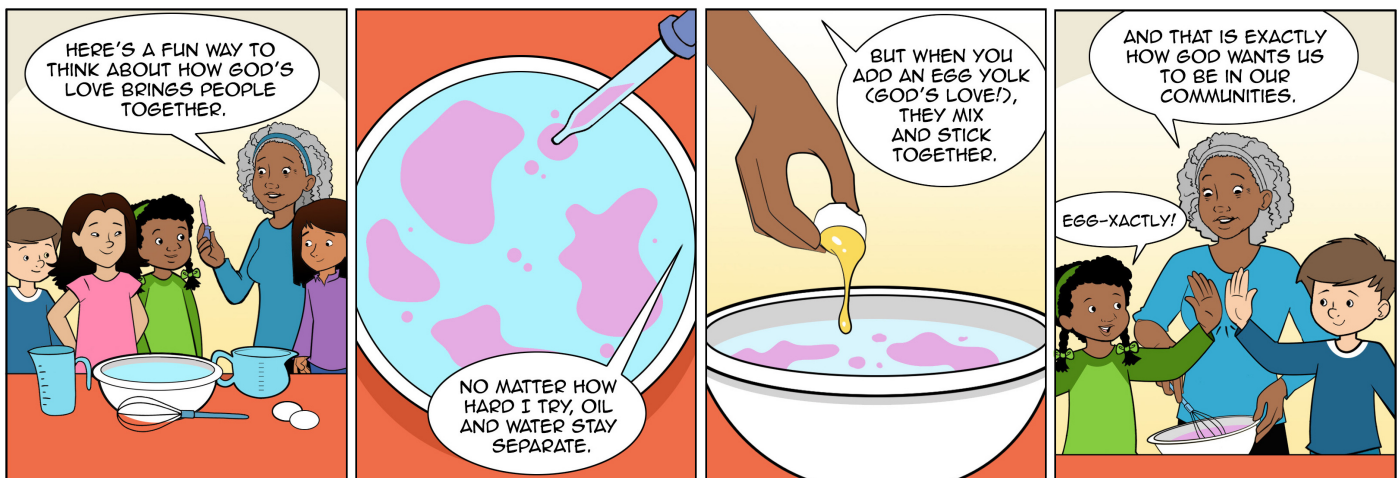
Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (NIV)

1 John 4:8



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron Vandenburg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Have you ever heard that water and oil don't mix? Well, that's true... unless you have an **emulsifier**. That's a scientific term for a substance that can bring together two other substances that like to separate. So, if you mix in an emulsifier—like egg yolk—the oil and water won't separate anymore. Instead, they will mix together and stick together. And that is exactly how God wants us to be in our communities.

God wants us to follow the example of Christ Jesus and mix his love into our relationship with others so that different kinds of people can mix together and stick together. In our Bible reading, the Jews thought they were better than the Gentiles, so the Jews separated themselves from the Gentiles, the same way oil separates from water. But Christ demonstrated the love of God to bring them together, the same way an egg yolk can bring oil and water together. And Jesus wasn't the only one who used God's love to bring people together.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a preacher who followed the example of Christ and brought all kinds of people together. For example, Dr. King encouraged White people to stop thinking that they were better than Black people because of their skin color and to start treating Black people as equals. Dr. King also encouraged Black people to peacefully protest their unfair treatment rather than trying to hurt the White people who had been hurting them. Like Romans 12:21 says, “Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.” Dr. King reminded *everyone* that we all are humans made by God, and we are all his children, no matter what we look like.

God wants us to love others the way he loves us. So remember, let God's love work like an emulsifying egg yolk, bringing people together through his power.

Prayer

Father God, thanks for loving us so much that you would send your only Son, Jesus Christ, to give us your mighty power to combat hate with your love and unite others to you and each other. Amen.

written by Jenée V. Giles-Hamilton

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/gods-love-brings-people-together>
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