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## ***Walking Towards the Cross: God Loves You!***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, March 17, 2019*

“For **this is how God loved the world**: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will **not perish** but have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NLT*

“Grace Teaches Us That God Loves Because of Who God Is,  
Not Because of Who We Are”

“God Loves Each of Us as If There Were Only One of Us”

“God Proved His Love on The Cross”

### **Have I Grown Up with Broken and Flawed Images of Love?**

Those Who Have Yet to Commit Their Lives to Christ

Those Who Did Something They Don't Think Is Forgivable

Those Who Experienced Abuse as A Child

The Problem:

You Believe Your Feelings More Than the Word of God

I Must Know the Word ...

Which Teaches Me About the Ways ...

Which Reveal the Will

### **Where Were You God When...?**

The Problem of Evil

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.”

### ***Romans 3:23, NLT***

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. “The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’ “‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed. “**‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. “‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”**

***Matthew 13:24–30, NLT***

### God’s Feelings When Abuse, Loss, and Tragedy Occur

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” ***Romans 1:18, ESV***

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”  
***Psalms 56:8, NLT***

“Jesus wept.” ***John 11:35, NLT***

“When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion...” ***Luke 7:13, NLT***

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” ***Revelation 21:4, NLT***

### What Does God Want You to Do When Your Heart Is Breaking?

“Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.” ***1 Peter 5:7, NLT***

### God Can’t Love Me Because...

#### Shame Turns Off Your Brain

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners.**” ***Romans 5:8, NLT***

#### Nothing Can Change God’s Love for You

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” ***Romans 8:37–39, ESV***

Jesus Is in The Set Free Ministry

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11, NLT*