



BRIDGING THE GAP

HEBRON YOUTH DEVOTIONS

Valentine's Day is just a few days away. I'm not sure how you feel about Valentine's day, but here we are again anyway. Maybe your parents or grandparents usually do something special for you, or maybe you have a special someone in your life that the rest of us don't know about (yet...). Whatever your take on Valentine's Day, it is a good time to think about love.

The Bible uses a few different words for love, but let's focus on the best type of love – the love of God. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word used for the love of God is *hesed* (huh-SED). In the New Testament, the Greek word used to describe God's love is *agape* (uh-GOP-ā). Both of these words describe the kind of love that never fails. It is not dependent on how the other person behaves. This is how Jesus says we can "love" our enemies – treating them in loving ways, even though they don't act very lovable. It's the kind of love that "sticks" – it doesn't end. It doesn't run away. It doesn't give up. This is the way God loves the world. This is the way God loves you.

When you think about the *hesed*, or the *agape* of God, what are your feelings when you consider:

1. God created you in your mother's womb.
2. God has a special plan for your life.
3. God's love sticks around when it feels like everyone else has left.
4. God sees every moment of your life, the good and the bad, and loves you like no one else.
5. God has placed you in your school, on your team, in your ensemble, in your job, in your family, to be an expression of God's love to others around you.

This Valentine's Day, as you're thinking about the people you love most, consider how much you are loved by the God who created you; who created this world, the entire universe, and beyond. Consider how much God has done to express love to you – the incredible gift of Jesus and his sacrifice for you on the cross. Consider how much God has given you and how you can use those things to share God's love with others. Consider the people in your life who may need an extra dose of love right now. Consider how you can be a person who shares *hesed/agape* with everyone you meet.

You are loved. You are lovable. You have love to give. Happy Valentine's Day!

