

Love Like Jesus

Ready:

“This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.”--? John 15:12-13

Set

There are many examples of coaches and athletes showing and sharing God’s love in sports, but one standout example is Team Hoyt. Rick Hoyt was born with cerebral palsy. From an early age, Rick’s father, Dick, committed his life to doing whatever was necessary to allow his son to experience the life that God had given him.

One day Rick told his father that he wanted to participate in a 5-mile benefit run for a Lacrosse player who had been paralyzed in an accident. This meant Dick would have to push him in his wheelchair. Later, Rick said, "Dad, when I’m running, it feels like I’m not handicapped." That began a lifelong pursuit of father and son competing in over 1,100 events, including 32 Boston Marathons, 6 Ironman Triathlons, and biking and running across the US.

Dick truly "laid down his life" for his son. It was a choice, a lifestyle, and an attitude, as well as an action. The call to love is often difficult, but it’s also a reminder of how God loves us: relentlessly, completely, and without expectation of return. In John 15, Jesus reminds us to remain in his love. Dick never gave up. Neither does Jesus. The second greatest commandment Jesus gives us is to love others.

What are some practical ways we can show God’s love??

1. Praying for and with others.
2. Investing in others’ lives by listening to them and spending time with them.
3. Encouraging others, being patient and compassionate.
4. Give generosity—time, talents and treasures.
5. Simple acts of kindness and hospitality.
6. Share the Gospel and disciple others.

Jesus exemplified all of these. Let’s all learn to live and love like Jesus!

Go

1. Is God placing someone on your heart to show God’s love to?
2. From the list above, what ways can you show your teammates, friends and/or a family member God’s love?

Workout

1 Corinthians 16:14, Luke 6:31, Proverbs 17:17

Overtime

Lord, help us to love others as you love them. Teach us what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves. Fill us with your love so it overflows to those around us. Lead us to those that need to experience your love. In Jesus name, Amen.



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