

Discussion Guide: When Love Came Down

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

December 7-8, 2002: "When Love Came Down" a cantata presented by the Spirit and Truth Choir and the College Park Orchestra under the leadership and direction of Eric Anderson, Worship Pastor of College Park Church.

What a beautiful time of worshiping in the Spirit and singing and praising God our Father, and his son Jesus Christ. What a joy it was to hear the gospel message, the good news of great joy for all people.

During the performance a number of scriptures were displayed as we heard their message in song. The one I'd like for us to discuss this evening is the response that Jesus gave to his disciples at the end of his parable of the vine and the branches.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:9-17 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- How has God's love shown forth in your life this week?
- What fruit did you bear? Was it "*fruit that will last?*"
- Did anything come up this week that hampered your joy being complete?
- How can we pray for you "*that your joy may be complete?*"?

In the coming week, reflect upon the fact that Love Came Down, for a purpose.

You are the salt of the earth.¹
You are the light of the world.²
Go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.³

May the love of Christ dwell richly in your life this week, so that in Him, your joy may be complete.

¹ Matthew 5:13

² Matthew 5:14

³ John 15:16