



**Read:** The intensity is building with angry crowds, confused leaders and Jesus, battered and bruised, yet so much more to come. Read [Matthew 27:15-21](#). Envision the crowds and the cries they make. Consider the quiet suffering of Christ.

The love of God is inherent in his nature, as his people have seen throughout their history. Read [Deuteronomy 7:6-9](#) and hear the words spoken of you. Read it again slowly and quietly aloud, looking for one word or phrase to breathe in today.

**Think:** Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God's nature in this? What do you see about his heart for people? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God's message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

**Rest:** Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

The very existence of the cross, and of the crucified Christ, forces us to make a crucial decision: Will we look for God somewhere else, or will we make the cross, and the crucified Christ, the basis of our thought about God.

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