October 24th – 25th, 2026
God is… Part 1

- **God is…**
  - We are starting a new series today. We are calling it, "God is…" We will cover Scriptures that talk about who God is. Each week we will cover one or more aspects of the nature of God.
    - **Jeremiah 9:23-24** We want to know God. That means knowing not just what He does, but who He is. Knowing God's nature. Knowing God's character.
    - Let's go into the first God is… verse. **1 John 4:7-8**
- **Part 1: God is love**
  - Love originates in God. Love comes from God. Love originates in God because God is love.
    - Love is not something that God just does. It is actually who He is. There's a difference between saying God is loving, and God is love. One is an action. The other is part of the very nature of God.
- **1 John 4:9**
  - Because God is love, love is something He demonstrates. When something is part of who you are, it is also something that you do. And God doesn't put up fronts. He doesn't play pretend. Sometimes, a person could pretend to care for you. God will never pretend to care. God is authentic. You can trust that He really loves you.
  - God demonstrated His love by sending Jesus. To understand how much God loves us, let's understand how much God values us. **1 Corinthians 6:20**
    - From John Bevere (Awe of God chapter 8):
      - You were bought at a price. There is a lot packed into that phrase.
      - Value is determined by the purchaser. If you go to an auction, an item will be for sale. Someone might put in a bid of $1,000 and another might feel like its value is higher and put in a bid of $2,000. The winning bid is really the one that matters.
      - If we were bought at a price, what was the bid God placed on us? **John 3:16**
        - God's bid for you was His Son.
      - **John 17:23** God's love for you is even as He as loved Jesus!
      - John Bevere, "No wise person will make an unprofitable deal – to give what is more valuable for that which is less valuable. In the same way, God would never make an unprofitable deal. The price God paid for you was the life of His only begotten Son, which means He values you as much as He values Jesus. It also means He values those around you as much as He values Jesus."
- **1 John 4:10**
  - From Keith Moore, If God is love, then, "Love loves you."
- **Ephesians 3:16-20**
  - We need power to grasp the love of God.
    - My grandpa's story
  - The Lord inspired these verses. I believe the words "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ…," were deliberately chosen.
    - Wide – What might wide mean?
      - The Lord has loved you at all stages of your life. The Lord has loved you over a wide variety of stages. **Romans 5:8**
        - I don't know about you, but I've had stages of life where people liked me, and I've had other stages of life where the same people didn't like me.
        - When I was a teenager, I had an intervention for how negative and judgmental I was. People didn't like me. That was not my greatest stage of life.

More on the back

        - God has loved you even at your worst stages of life.
            - I remember this clicked for me how God loves me in this way when I received this from a person. Story with Kayla loving me even when I didn't love myself
        - This helped me understand. That's how God loves us. God has loved you at every stage of your life. You might think, "I don't even love me." God has loved you even when you didn't love yourself.
    - Long – What might long mean?
        - Not only has God loved you at every stage, but God has loved you for a long, long time.
        - Have you ever been to the ocean? This could apply to Lake Superior as well if you haven't been to the ocean. You can stand on a beach and look to the horizon as far as the eye can see and not see the end of the ocean. That is like God's love.
        - **Psalm 139:17-18**
            - How many things can you hold in your mind at one time? Some people can only hold one thing in their mind. Some might be able to hold a little more.
            - God's mind is so powerful that He can hold the thoughts of every person in His mind at once. That means that right now He is thinking about you.
                - Have you ever received a text from someone saying, "Hey, thinking about you."? You could receive a message like that from God at any moment, and it would be true.
            - His thoughts of you are vast. You can't count them because God has always been thinking of you. He created time. God sees the beginning from the end. If He sees the beginning from the end and if He is outside of time, then He's been thinking about you from before you were born.
        - **Psalm 137:1**
            - This won't run dry. You can be secure in His love. Not only does His love for you extend into the past for forever, His love extends to you in the future for forever.
    - High – What might high mean?
        - He loves you to the highest extent possible.
        - Here's another way you could say it: there's nothing He wouldn't do for you.
        - Sometimes, people wonder if Jesus really had to die. There's a lot of answers to that. I've covered some of those in the past. Here's another: **John 15:13**
            - It's like He just so strongly desired a way to show His love. Kayla story
            - It's like God was thinking, "There has to be more we can do. They need to know what I would do for them. They need to know that I love them to the highest extent possible." So, He died for us. Greater love has no one than that. It's the highest form of love.
    - Deep – What might deep mean?
        - There's no where you can go that He can't reach you. Wherever you may be, God loves you. Ocean example
        - His love reaches everywhere. God is omni-present. His love reaches everywhere because He is everywhere, and love is who He is. **Psalm 36:5**
        - Have you ever been separated from a loved one? With God, we don't have to have that separation.
- This is God's love. We need power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. There are so many layers to God's love. Let's pray to be able to receive this.
- **Send off:** prayer@goodhope.ag Thank you so much for being with me today! May the Lord bless you!