

**What Kind of Life
do You Lead?**

Who needs a truck?



Where's your spirit of adventure?

We want a Life of Adventure



Wild West Adventure 2010

Timeline

night	date	day	time	activity	dist	tot dist	avg speed	drive time	visit time	tot time
	28-Jun	Mon	0900	arrive	Badlands	55	55	65	0.8	
	28-Jun	Mon	1100	leave	Badlands					2
	28-Jun	Mon	1230	arrive	Mt Rushmore	80	80	65	1.2	
	28-Jun	Mon	1530	leave	Mt Rushmore					3
	28-Jun	Mon	1630	arrive	Crazy Horse	30	30	65	0.5	
	28-Jun	Mon	1730	leave	Crazy Horse					
4	28-Jun	Mon	1900	arrive	Sundance, WY	82	82	65	1.3	8.8
	29-Jun	Tue	0800	leave	Sundance, WY					
	29-Jun	Tue	0900	arrive	Devil's Tower	33	33	50	0.7	
	29-Jun	Tue	1100	leave	Devil's Tower					2
	29-Jun	Tue	1430	arrive	Little Big Horn	230	230	65	3.5	
	29-Jun	Tue	1630	leave	Little Big Horn					2
5	29-Jun	Tue	1800	arrive	Sheridan, WY	66	66	55	1.2	9.4
	30-Jun	Wed	0800	leave	Sheridan, WY					
	30-Jun	Wed	0930	arrive	Medicine Wheel	60	60	55	1.1	
	30-Jun	Wed	1030	leave	Medicine Wheel					1
6	30-Jun	Wed	1800	arrive	Jackson, WY	380	380	55	6.9	9.0
	1-Jul	Thur	1300	leave	Jackson, WY					4
7	1-Jul	Thur	1530	arrive	Yellowstone, WY	122	122	55	2.2	9.2
8	2-Jul	Fri			Yellowstone, WY					
9	3-Jul	Sat			Yellowstone, WY					
	4-Jul	Sun	0800	leave	Yellowstone, WY					
10	4-Jul	Sun	1800	arrive	Moab, UT	585		60	9.8	2 11.8
	5-Jul	Mon	0800	leave	Moab, UT					
	5-Jul	Mon	1000	tour	Arches					2
	5-Jul	Mon	1200	leave	Arches					
	5-Jul	Mon			Newspaper Rock					1
	5-Jul	Mon			Sand Island					0.5
	5-Jul	Mon	1700	arrive	Grand Canyon	328	328	65	5.0	
11	5-Jul	Mon	1900	tour	Grand Canyon					2 10.5
	6-Jul	Tue	0700	tour	Grand Canyon					6
	6-Jul	Tue	1300	leave	Grand Canyon					
	6-Jul	Tue	1630	arrive	Petrified Forest	202		65	3.1	
	6-Jul	Tue	1830	leave	Petrified Forest					2
12	6-Jul	Tue	2000	arrive	Gallup, NM	275	275	60	1.2	12.3
	7-Jul	Wed	0800	leave	Gallup, NM					
	7-Jul	Wed			Window Rock	27		60	0.5	0.5
	7-Jul	Wed			Four Corners	104		60	1.7	0
	7-Jul	Wed	1030	arrive	Cortez, CO	40		60	0.7	
	7-Jul	Wed			Mesa Verde					5
	7-Jul	Wed	1530	leave	Mesa Verde					

"clipboard o' fun"



Live a Life of

How would you fill in the blank?

Live a Life of ...

Ease

Faith

Holiness

Learning

Promise

Service

Life of ____ (case 1)

Jesus talking to the woman caught (by herself) in adultery.

Go now and leave your **life of sin**.

John 8:11

Life of ____ (case 2)

**Be imitators of God,
therefore, as dearly loved children,
and **live a life of love**,
just as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

Ephesians 5:1,2

Let's think about Living a Life of Love...

We think we know about Love

**We are all fairly capable of having
a **burst** of it
every now and then.**

But can we make it our Life?

Perhaps we need a deeper definition of Love.

God defines Love

"For God **so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.**

John 3:16

God is love.

1 John 4:8,16

And He wants us to Live a Life of Love.

How do we manage this Life long-term?

**A Life of Love is more than just an act of love
(even a supreme one)
every once in a while,
but a day-to-day outpouring of love
to all those around us.**

**If we live a Life of Love,
then everything we do stems from the perspective
of love for others.**

And it must keep growing...

True Love Needs a Solid Foundation

This foundation must enable you to look over small differences
as you walk along the path or “Way”,
and your common beliefs endure
when looks and physical ability go.

You face things together,
and you support each other,
and you enjoy being together.

You believe in a common definition of Good.

Command them to **do good**,
to be **rich in good deeds**,
and to be generous and willing to share.

In this way they will lay up **treasure** for themselves
as a **firm foundation** for the coming age,
so that they may take hold of the life that is **truly life**.

1 Timothy 6:18-20

Don't let what you build get blown away!

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.



Matthew 7:24-27

When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more,
But the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

Proverbs 10:25

When Tragedy strikes it creates a crater!



We missed this adventure spot!

It makes you think about what you believe about God

**There is always Love - no matter what happens;
no matter how deep the crater!**



It pours in from all around us!

God's supply of Love is infinite!

... the LORD's **unfailing love**
surrounds the man
who trusts in him...

Psalm 32:10

Digging Deeper

**As I burrow deeper and deeper into the meaning of Love,
I know more and more that this is the life for me
and this is what I believe with all of my heart.**

Can you Live on Love (if that is all you had)?

Seeing Love in the Fire



Hell is where there is no God, and no Love at all!

Believing in Love is believing in God

**And whenever we believe in Love,
we believe to some extent in God.**

To put it another way:

“To the degree you love, you believe in God.”

This reminds me of Leo Tolstoy’s story,

“Where Love is, God is”,

but perhaps I could change the title to

“Because Love is, God is.”

In the final analysis,

Love is all there is that shows the character of God.

Love is always there

**Love is always shining –
there is never absolute darkness.**

**God is light,
and in Him is no darkness at all.**

1 John 1:5

Satan has only temporary power

**When bad things happen to good people,
it only means that there is another power,
another personality involved.**

**And some day God has promised that
that personality will be forever chained and rendered powerless.**

That is what I hold on to in the worst of times.

**Living a Life of Love means that
you have to keep on holding on no matter what.**

**And God will some day and in some way make things new –
fixed –
put right again...**

When we suffer loss

**When we suffer loss,
we have to realize that life is not about
getting everything you want (from God)
or being perfect (as a human),
but knowing that you stand fully
for Goodness and Love.**

**And I know
that there is no greater life
than a Life of Love.**

Can you love too much?

You don't lose things because you loved them too much.
You can't love too much if you love in the right way.
It just hurts more when you lose what you love.
The Life of Love is not necessarily a "happy ever after" fantasy.

A Life of Love is one of continual growth,
where the doors and windows of experience
are always open to the wonder and magic that life offers.
To love is to **risk** living fully.

Leo Buscaglia

You can't Live a Life of Love without risking your heart.
You must believe that the benefits are much greater than that risk!

I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.

John 10:10

Biblical Examples

We are all familiar with those that were full of faith from the list in Hebrews 11.

**We see the main characters in the Bible typically leading lives of faith,
or seeking for truth,
or on a mission from God,
or battling God's enemies.**

**And though love is evident in many situations,
how many live a “**Life of Love?**”.**

Biblical Example - Job

Job lost everything, including almost everyone he loved, but he knew that he still had the love of God and that of his “comforting” friends.

In answering attacks that he was suffering for his own sin, he claimed in Job 29:15-17, Job 30:25, and 31:32 (among other verses):

**“I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.
I was a father to the needy;
I took up the case of the stranger.
I broke the fangs of the wicked
and snatched the victims from their teeth.
Have I not wept for those in trouble?
Has not my soul grieved for the poor?
...no stranger had to spend the night in the street,
for my door was always open to the traveler...”**

Job was always thinking of how he could help others, and surely fits the model we are talking about.

Biblical Example - The Shunammite Woman

The Shunammite woman had a room built for Elisha (2 Kings 4:8ff).

She wasn't out to get anything for herself;
she did it just because **she wanted to do
something truly Good for a man of God.**

But she was afraid to receive a most treasured gift,
when Elisha offered her a son.

She was afraid to take the risk;
she was afraid to love.

Love means taking risks with your heart,
so this woman could not fully be Living a Life of Love.

Biblical Example - Dorcas

Dorcas is a great candidate for this (Acts 9:36ff).

She was known for always doing good and helping the poor,
and when she died those that knew her
begged Peter to come and heal her.

They cried and showed him all of the things that Dorcas had made.

So Peter healed her.

Dorcas really seemed to Live the Life of Love.

Biblical Example - The Unnamed Centurion

There was a centurion,
who strangely enough in this time
was loved by the Jews (Luke 7:1ff).

They praised him
and pleaded earnestly with Jesus to heal him, saying,
"This man deserves to have you do this,
because **he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.**"

This Roman soldier fits the characteristics of the Life of Love.

Biblical Example - Cornelius (also a Centurion)

**At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius,
a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment.**

**He and all his family were devout and God-fearing;
he gave generously to those in need
and prayed to God regularly.**

Acts 10:1-2

Cornelius was known to Live the Life of Love.

**Because of this, he became the man
who initiated the official crossover of the gospel to the Gentiles.**

The Greatest Biblical Example - Jesus

We have studied the character of Jesus at length for all of our lives - there is no one else that even comes close to Jesus in this idea of Living a Life of Love.

The three mighty men of David performed one of the greatest acts of love recorded in the Bible.

But showing great love is not the same as a living a life of love.

Jesus did something just as heroic, dying for us so that we could live eternally with Him, but He also lived among men in gentleness and offered love at every day at every level.

He lived a Life of Love every day and to every person He met.

Jesus pointed to the Life of Love

**"Then the King will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father;
take your inheritance,
the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.**

**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
I needed clothes and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.'**

Matthew 25: 34-36

How well are we doing?

**Who do you know personally that you think lives a life of love?
I know several people that I would fit this category;
I'm married to one.**

**I'm not doing all that well.
I need to look further than just my family.
I am more of a local than a global love person.**

**But lately,
when I get aggravated at someone,
I think to myself,
"Am I Living a Life of Love?"
And it settles me down in a very short time.
We all need to keep asking ourselves that question.**

The Power of Love

Physicist: Love is the most powerful force in the universe.
(Look how it draws people in during times of crisis.)

Artist: Love gives the most beautiful view of the universe.

Mathematician: There is no upper limit to Love.

Chemist: Love creates the strongest bonds...
(Chemistry is a subset of physics)

Biologist: True love just keeps growing.

Lawyer: There is no law greater than the law of Love.
(Yet mercy triumphs over judgment, James 2:13)

Doctor: Love is the universal antidote that aids our healing.

Love is the Greatest Commandment

The Greatest Commandments:

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.'**

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:37-39)

**But we tend to think of this too much as commandments,
rather than a commitment to a way of life
with which we agree with all of our heart and soul.**

**It is not about just keeping commandments,
but always doing Good to others.**

**It is more than a command:
it is a long-term choice that we must make.**

**It is more than a concept:
it must result in actions that are consistent with a Life of Love.**

Back to the Adventure?

**We are all functioning at a small fraction of our capacity
to live fully in its total meaning
of loving, caring, creating, and adventuring.**

**Consequently, the actualizing of our potential
can become **the most exciting adventure of our lifetime.****

Herbert Otto

Living a Life of Love

To **live a life of love** is life's greatest challenge.

Leo Buscaglia

Some people are afraid of adventure, and even love.
Some people can't even leave their homes.

But it is the only way to live,
and we have to get out of our shells
and embrace the Life of Love.

Love is the only thing of value that endures –
so we must chose to live a life of it.

We must live lives of love
so that no one is blind to the fact
that love is the vital essence that is always left
when all else that we think is important is gone.

Love is the Greatest Adventure of All!

True Love is Always Open

Not like some places along the path of adventure.



The door to the Kingdom of God is always open, too...