



## Day 5

### A Gift of Love

1 John 4:8

*“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*

There are a lot of emotions that go along with having a baby. Especially when you're in your early twenties and newly married. Many of them aren't the ones you'd find on a Hallmark card. Fear comes to mind. Frustration, apprehension, and – let's be honest – nausea are pretty constant companions. Labor began the evening before while we were watching an Indians' game, and it continued through the night. When I called the doctor in the morning, frightened and anxious, he told me my pains weren't close enough together yet and that I should try to relax for a while. Hmm. Many potential responses came to mind but, fortunately, I didn't say any of them out loud. Finally, we drove to the hospital. Hours and hours later, I was told that the good news was that the pains WERE close enough now but – the bad news – they weren't yet strong enough. Hmm. More potential responses that I kept to myself. More hours later, an emergency ultrasound confirmed there was nothing wrong with the baby and our daughter (it was a girl!) would be born soon. And he was. (So much for the value of ultrasounds in 1980!) God entered my room that day in the form of a clipboard. It carried a document I had to sign with my son's name typed onto the top line. I had never seen that name before. It hadn't existed before. He hadn't existed. But, already, looking down at the name of that brand-new person, I knew I loved him with my whole heart and being. That's when it hit me – *God is love*. I finally knew God for the first time. Love. Everything else would come from that.

***Dear God, Help us to know love – both earthly love and the spiritual love that you offer – and help us to share it far and wide.***

– Cathy Ausperk