

## Conversations from Proverbs “Let’s Talk About...Hate and Love”

**“Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers all wrongs.”**  
**Proverbs 10:12 NIV**

### **WORD:** God, what are You saying to me through Your Word?

Hate is a powerful force that ignites people to battle against other people. Scripture says hatred “stirs up” or triggers conflict. Hate is filled with unkind behavior, cruel words and even evil actions. Only love is strong enough to cover or smother the forces of hate. *What conflicts do we see caused by hate in our home or country right now? Where does hate lead? Where does love lead? Which outcome do we want to see?*

### **WHY:** God, why does this Scripture matter?

Hate crushes lives, devastates families and shatters communities. Hate fuels wars and takes lives, and sometimes we see crowds of all kinds of hate around us. We might say, “It’s not my fault; it’s not my problem.” **However, whether or not the hate in our culture is our fault, it is our problem.** 1 Peter 4:8 tells us, **“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude (or, a “crowd”) of sins.”** The only thing that will stop hate is love - true, sincere, genuine, real, earnest, continual, godly love. *Do you have this sort of love? How might this kind of love make a difference?*

### **WHAT:** God, what else does Your Word say to me about this?

Scripture says, **“By this we know love, that He (Jesus) laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone...sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart to him, how does God’s love abide in Him?”** (1 John 3:16-17). In other words, if we see someone needing help and don’t give it, then we are not truly loving. *Let’s read 1 John 3:11-18 and see what God says about overcoming hate and evil with love.*

### **WORSHIP:** God, how do You want me to respond to this truth?

God wants us to actively love people. **“He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister”** (1 John 4:21). So, **“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth”** (1 John 3:18). *As we are surrounded by powerful hate in this world, how can our family love our brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, in “deed and in truth” today?*

### **Family Disciple Me Blessing**

Lord God, we love because You first loved us (1 John 4:19). Help us to love others the way You have loved us. Give us attitudes and actions that smother hate and nurture love. In Your Name Jesus, amen!!!