

LOVE DOES – I'm With You (Genesis 32:22-30)

January 19, 2020

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A big part of love is simply being present with someone. This is why God promises His people, over and over again, "I will be with you." And yet, God is with us in a special and specific way – through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is only through Jesus that we can safely encounter God. This is what Jacob discovered as he wrestled with God one night?

Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched Jacob's hip socket as they wrestled and dislocated his hip. Then the man said to Jacob, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." – Genesis 32:24-26

The Lord Declares: " _____ "

Isaiah 41:10, Jeremiah 15:20, Haggai 1:13, Matthew 1:23, 28:20

"I am with you – this is the LORD's declaration." – Haggai 1:13

To be with you God must:

1. _____
Genesis 3:9, Genesis 17:7, Revelation 21:3

"Where are you?" – Genesis 3:9

2. _____
Genesis 32:25, 30; Matthew 26:67, Philippians 2:5-8

They spat on His face and beat Him. – Matthew 26:67

"For I have seen God face to face," he said, "yet my life has been spared." – Genesis 32:30

To be with others you must:

1. _____

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. – Hebrews 12:1

2. _____
Luke 15:4, Luke 19:10, James 1:22

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." – Luke 19:10

Questions for individual or group reflection:

Has there been a time where someone dropped everything to be with you? Share if you choose to.

How does it feel to know you are a priority to others?

How do you sense God's presence with you?

What do you make of Jesus' parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:3-7)?

What does it mean to you that Jesus seeks and saves the lost?

How important is the one, if the Shepherd leaves the 99 to find them?

How did God "lose face" in His Son Jesus?

How is quitting something, like losing face for you?

Why is it necessary to let some things go in order to be there for others?

Who do you sense God is leading you to be "with" right now?

How might you make yourself available to them?

What do you need to quit in order to free up time to be with others?

Pray: *Father, thank you for your love, and thank you that your love means that you are with us despite our faults, failures and even sin. Even though we are difficult to be around and often less than loving, you come for us. You are with us. You reveal your face to us – even at great cost to you. Lord, help us to learn from our Lord Jesus Christ, and be willing to let go of our own pride, and our selfish pursuits in order to love and serve others. Show us how we can decrease, so your love through us to others can increase. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Do:

- Quit something that is needlessly occupying you and distracting you – maybe do this on Thursday every week (per Bob Goff).
- Look for those around you who already desire to be with you but only lack your availability.
- Don't just think about it ... do it – find a way to be with that other person, and in so doing, show them God's Love.

Memory Verse

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). – Matthew 1:23

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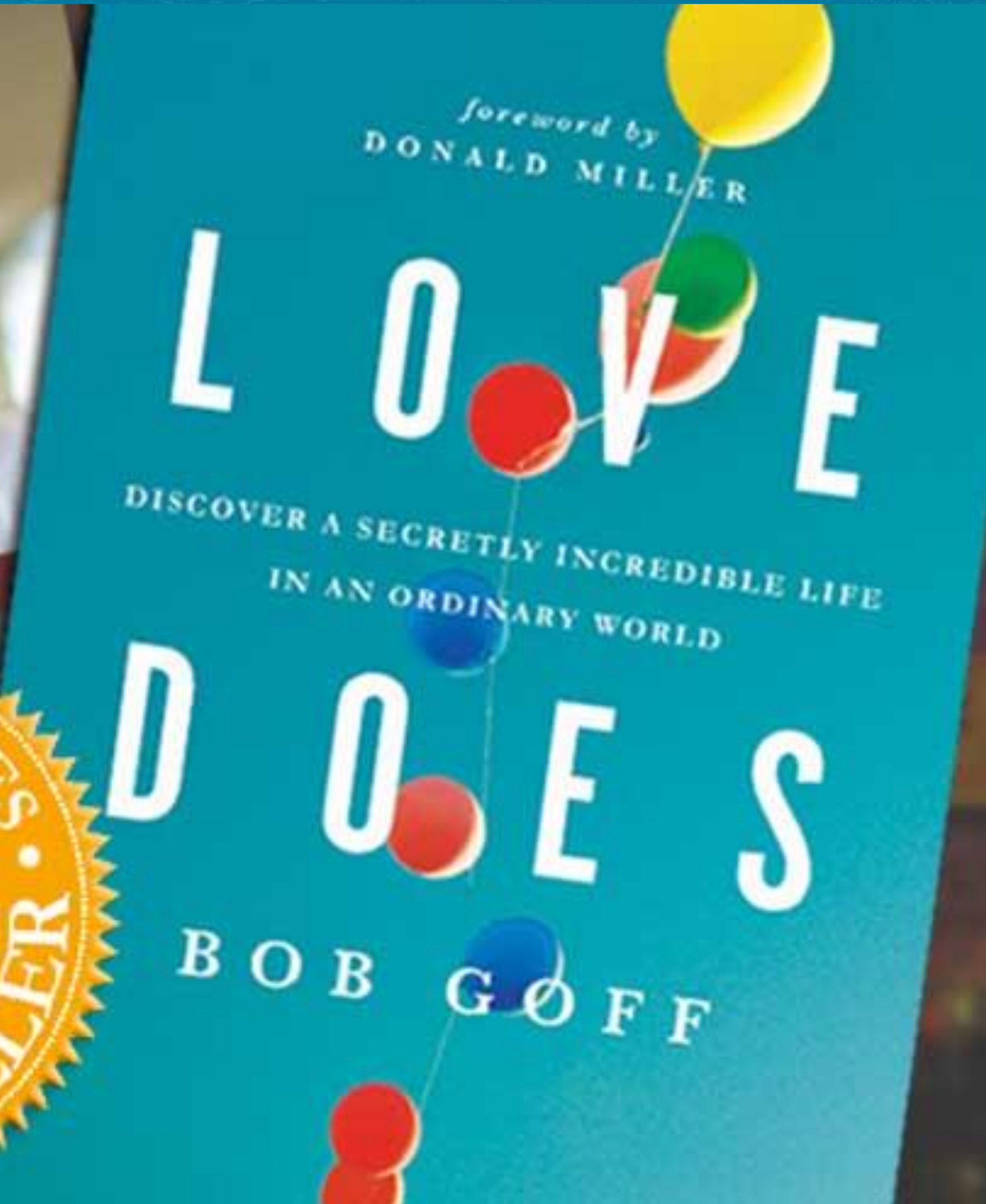




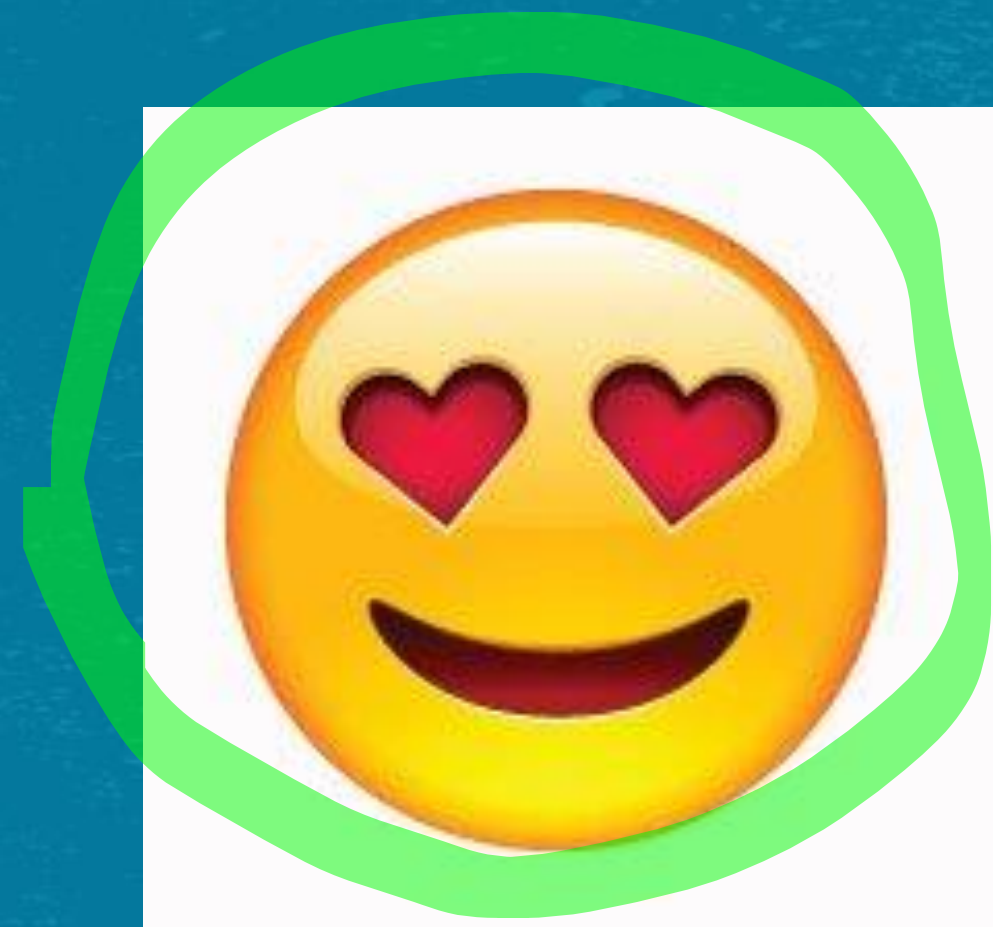
LOVES

I'm With You





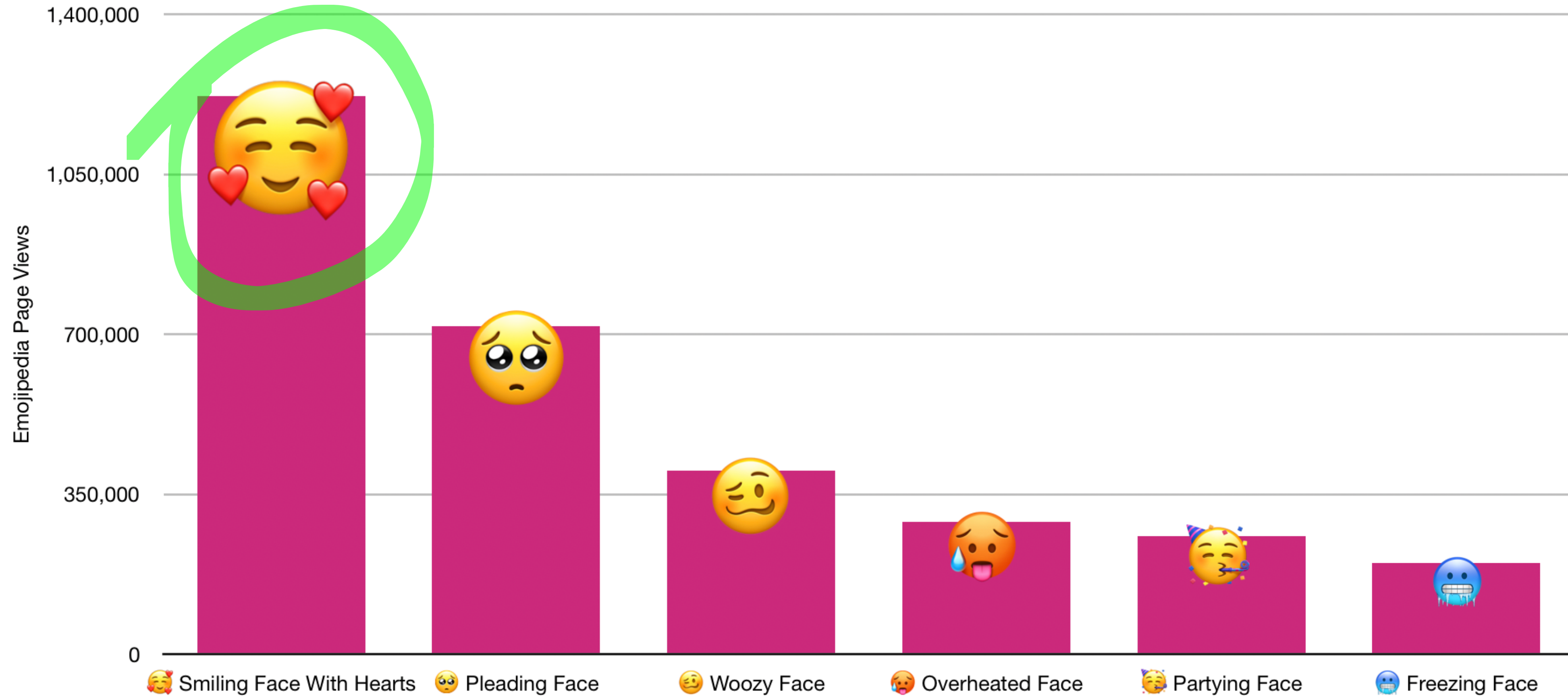






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“The virgin will
conceive and give
birth to a son, and
they will call him
Immanuel”
(which means “*God
with us*”).

Matthew 1:23



²⁷ Isaac blessed Jacob and said: “Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed. ²⁸ May God give to you – from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land – an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ **May peoples serve you and nations bow in worship to you. Be master over your relatives.**”

Genesis 27:27-29

Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. And Esau determined in his heart: ***“I will kill my brother Jacob.”***

Genesis 27:41

“For I have *seen God face to face*,” he said, “yet my life has been spared.”

Genesis 32:30

²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched Jacob's hip socket as they wrestled and dislocated his hip.

Genesis 32:24-25

Then the man said to Jacob, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob said, ***“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”***

Genesis 32:26

The Lord Declares: “I am with you”

“I am with you; do not be afraid.”

Isaiah 41:10

“I am with you to save you and rescue you.”

Jeremiah 15:20

“I am with you – this is the LORD’s declaration.”

Haggai 1:13

“and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely *I am with you* always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20



TO BE WITH YOU...GOD MUST:

TO BE WITH YOU...GOD MUST:

1. "Give Chase"

“Where are you?”

Genesis 3:9

TO BE WITH YOU...GOD MUST:

1. "Give Chase"
2. "Lose Face"

He touched Jacob's hip socket as they wrestled and dislocated his hip.

Genesis 32:25

They *spat on His face* and beat Him.

Matthew 26:67

TO BE WITH OTHERS...YOU MUST:

TO BE WITH OTHERS...YOU MUST:

1. “lose face”

TO BE WITH OTHERS...YOU MUST:

1. “lose face”
(give up something)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us *throw off everything that hinders* and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12:1

TO BE WITH OTHERS...YOU MUST:

1. “lose face”
(give up something)
2. “give chase”
(pursue them)

For the Son of Man came to *seek and to save the lost.*”

Luke 19:10

“and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely *I am with you* always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20