**“The Advent Candle of Love” (Matthew 1:18-21)**

The Christmas story is all about love...

1) Joseph’s love for Mary 2) Mary’s love for Jesus

3) God’s love for sinners 4) our love for one another

**I. Joseph’s love for Mary** - Matthew 1:18-19 He had 3 choices

A. Marry her, believing child wasn't his B. Take her to court C. Divorce her privately (what he decided)

**II. Mary’s love for Jesus** – Luke 2:6-7, 19, 34-35

A. She patiently waited, nurtured Him, B. Pondered blessings

C. Persevered even with Simeon's words of prophecy

**III. God’s love for sinners** - Matt 1:21; John 3:16-17; Romans 8:38-39

A. He sent His Son to be Messiah, Savior.

**IV. Our love for one another** -1 John 4:10-11

His love comes first and we must love others, as He loves us.

**V. Conclusion:** Who might we love in meaningful ways during this Christmastime?

A. Meet physical, spiritual or emotional needs - Visit, provide basics, love our neighbors

B. Do we need to make any relationship "right", resolve conflict, forgive?

C. Who might we share the Gospel with?