



# Young Women Active for Christ

February 2012

## love

**Playlist** Check out these songs as you think about love.

"You Love Me Anyway"—Sidewalk Prophets

"All of Me"—Matt Hammitt

"Love Come To Life"—Big Daddy Weave

### Warm Up

During the month of February, most of us have one thing on our minds: love. Thanks to Valentine's Day, we're surrounded with pink and red hearts, flowers and advertisements for romantic movies all month long. We tend to get caught up in the romantic love that the season represents, but there's another kind of love that needs to be celebrated—the unconditional love that God has for us.

### Work Out

If you haven't already, listen to "You Love Me Anyway" by the Sidewalk Prophets (*you can buy the song on iTunes or you can find it for free on YouTube*). This song is a great reminder for us of the unconditional love God pours out on us every day. We don't deserve His love, but He gives it to us anyway. My favorite part of the song says this:

"I am the thorn in Your crown  
But You love me anyway  
I am the sweat from Your brow  
But You love me anyway  
I am the nail in Your wrist  
But You love me anyway  
I am Judas' kiss  
But You love me anyway  
See now, I am the man who yelled out from the crowd  
For Your blood to be spilled on this earth shaking ground  
Yes then, I turned away with a smile on my face  
With this sin in my heart tried to bury Your grace  
And then alone in the night, I still called out for You  
So ashamed of my life, my life, my life  
But You love me anyway  
It's like nothing in life that I've ever known  
Yes, You love me anyway."

It's hard for us to think of ourselves as the reason Jesus had to die on the cross, but it was our sin that put Him there. Even through all the pain we caused Him, Jesus still loved us. He sacrificed Himself for us. And even as He was dying, He pleaded on our behalf when He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Unconditional love like that is hard for us to grasp. We have been taught by the world that love is just a feeling. We've been conditioned to listen to our feelings and emotions when it comes to love. But true love is so much more than just an emotion. Emotions come and go, but love lasts forever. While our emotions depend on our circumstances, God's love is constant and pure and true. It

keeps no records of wrongs. It is patient and kind. It is not proud. It does not boast. It rejoices in the truth. It is hopeful. It endures all things, it bears all things and it never, ever fails (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

## Strength Training *Dig into God's Word.*

God's Word is full of promises about His never-ending love for you. He lovingly created you and He has a purpose for you and wants good things for you. Look up the verses below and write them down as a reminder of God's incredible love for you.

Psalms 139:14:

John 3:16-17:

John 15:13:

1 Corinthians 2:9:

Romans 8:38-39:

Isaiah 43:1-3:

Jeremiah 29:11 and 13:



## Cool Down and Stretch It Out

Pick one of the verses above or go to [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com) and search for verses about God's love. Then, write down the verses that speak to you on index cards and tape them to your mirror, stick them in your locker or use them to decorate your school binders. This will help you remember how much you are loved and valued by God. While you're at it, make a few extra cards to give to your friends, and spread God's love around.



### About the Author

Christina Hopper is 25 years old and attends Sulphur Springs FWB Church in Northport, AL, where she teaches the Junior Youth Group. She is a student at Mississippi University for Women where she is pursuing a degree in Creative Writing and English Education.