

Small Group News

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Prayer: Wisdom for Leaders; Our church gathering plan

Small Group Questions

For week of July 5th, 2020

Love Is... (Part 1)

John 15:5-13

INTRODUCTION

Tina Turner once asked, “What’s love got to do with it?” Apparently, everything. Love is the most popular theme in music, and this may surprise you, but love is the most popular theme in the Bible too. But what does love look like? What is love exactly? Is it just a feeling, or is there more? This month we explore 4 realities of love from God’s perspective; and as we do, we will unpack what **Love is...**

The focus of the week: **Love is Selfless**

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What is one food that you would say you “love”? Why?
2. What is your favorite love song or romantic movie? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week Pastor Steve shared that love is selfless. He said Jesus was the ultimate example of love by choosing to seek what was best for others, even when it wasn’t best for Him, through His sacrifice on the cross. Where else can we read in the Bible about sacrificial love?
 - **Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4-13; 1 John 4:7-12**
 - Which descriptions of love in 1 Corinthians 13 require selflessness and sacrifice? Which require romantic feelings? What does that tell you about biblical love? Explain...
 - God showed His love for us by sending His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins. What insights does this give us into how God expects us to show love to others?
 - What happens to our efforts to love if those efforts aren’t connected to Jesus’ love for us?
 - Why is it important that we find the definition of love in the cross, not somewhere else?
 - What does John mean by God’s love is perfected when we love one another? (v. 12)
 - How does our love for one another help others see and experience the love of God?
 - **Read: 2 Samuel 9:1-13; Luke 10:25-37, Luke 16:19-31**
 - What can you conclude about love from these three stories?
 - How willing are you to make loving sacrifices in your relationship with others right now? What does your willingness to do so reveal about the way you see and define love?
 - When we fail to love others, what does it expose about our own relationship with God?
2. As you wrap up the conversation consider the following:
 - Do you find yourself more loving or more critical and judgmental of others right now? If the latter, how are you going to reconnect with the love of God in Christ this week?
 - What opportunities are there for our group to make visible the love of God this week?

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TAKE IT HOME

You heard Pastor Steve say in the message that we need to be plugged into the right power source because “selfless love requires supernatural power.” Let’s do a quick flyover on how you are doing with loving God and loving others.

Take a minute and write down some things that are making you feel anxious, or angry. Also write down some people who make you angry. Now try and think of what specifically makes you angry about that situation or person.

After you have done that take a prayer walk with God. Really, go outside and walk your neighborhood (or find some place you can walk) and spend some time praying to God about those situations and people. Ask Him for His power in handling them. Ask Him for wisdom on what to do. Ask Him to bring godly people your way who can help you deal with your stress and anger. Don’t be fooled into thinking that because you say it isn’t a big deal that it isn’t a big deal.

Now take your journal from last month (or start a new one) and mark down the date you gave those things and people to God and check back each week to see what God is doing. Also, consider adding a God-walk to your schedule each day and repeat the process. See if over time you don’t start thinking differently about situations and people in your life even if neither ever changes. Note how God begins to help you love Him and others more deeply and selflessly.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY CHALLENGE

This week we want you to take some time to discuss as a group a potential ministry challenge for Summer. Challenge each other to find a place, event, or cause for which you can serve together. It can be anything. Be creative. Maybe it’s something you do in a single day, maybe it’s something that takes all summer. Whatever you decide, challenge yourselves to discuss it, choose it, do it, and record the results by video and/or photos. We would love to know what you come up with!

GROUP PRAYER

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