

God's Great Love

Key Scriptures

1 John 4:7-19 ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

Ephesians 2:4-7 ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus..

Key Point: God wants you to believe how much He loves you.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- You may have heard of the 5 love languages (Words of affirmation; Quality time; Physical touch; Acts of service; Receiving gifts) What do you think yours is?

Start thinking: Choose questions to get your group thinking.

- What do you think it means that God is love? (1 John 4:8, 16)
- If Love is the very nature of God, how did that play out before the creation of the universe, before He created a people to love? (Genesis 1:26, John 17:24)
- In what ways does God's way of creating us (male/female) point toward God's love that He has within Himself (Father/Son/Holy Spirit)? (Genesis 1:26-27)
- What is the primary evidence that God loves us according to our passage in 1 John 4? (see also Romans 5:8)

Start sharing: Questions to create openness.

- Jerry shared an experience about his cat fearing & hiding from them even though she is loved by the family. How does fear keep us from experiencing the love of God? (1 John 4:18, Isa 53:6)
- Because God loves us, what has He done for us according to Ephesians 2:4-7?
 - How do these things impact you, or how should they impact your daily living?
 - Why do you think these things don't impact us more?
- Are there any falsehoods or lies you are believing that make you afraid of God, or make it difficult to trust Him?

Start doing: 1 John 4:7-11 tells us that when we understand and believe how much God loves us, it impacts how we love others. Read through the passage again and ask God whom you might reach out in love this week.

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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