

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week we celebrate Easter, and in so doing come face to face with the wonderful truth that God loved the world enough to sacrifice His own Son to provide the full payment for our sins and rebellions against Him - and then brought Him back to life to prove that everything He said is true! It's an amazing reality, and yet many people still struggle with wondering whether God really cares about them in a personal way through the ups and downs of their daily lives. This week Pastor Don shows us the transformational power of understanding the enormous truth of God's love for us on a personal level, so to get your group started ask everyone to share about a time when they experienced someone's unconditional love for them...what happened?

BIG THOUGHT

Easter not only shows us God's love for the world, but more specifically it shows His unconditional love for each and every one of us - a love that will transform us the more we experience it!

1. To get started, read Ephesians 2:1-3. What is the state of our spiritual health apart from a relationship with God? (v. 1) Why is that? (v. 2) And how does that position us in our relationship with God? (v. 3)
2. Now read v. 4-7. What happened to change our situation? (v. 5) What is our position if we choose to follow Jesus? (v. 6-7) If someone asked you to describe how God's grace and kindness has shown up in your life, what would you say? Let everyone share if they can...

3. Now read Ephesians 3:10-13. What does Paul (the author of Ephesians) say is God's purpose for restoring us into a relationship with Him? (v. 10) And what is the result for us generally and for Paul specifically? (v. 12-13)
4. All of this leads us to Paul's prayer for Jesus' followers in Ephesus. Read Ephesians 3:14-17. List the three things that Paul prays for them. What would change in your own life if God made these things a reality for you? Be as specific as you can...
5. To finish, read v.18-19. What does Paul want us to personally know about God's love for us? (v. 18) What does he want us to *experience*? (v. 19) And what is the result when we understand God's unconditional love for us? (v. 19) Think about your own life - how can being convinced of God's unconditional love for you transform you?

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for sending Jesus to rescue you, and then ask Him to help you see and recognize the depth of His love for you as you go through your day.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Romans 5:7-8

Day 4: Zephaniah 3:17

Day 2: 2 Peter 3:9

Day 5: John 3:16

Day 3: Matthew 11:28-29

Day 6: Romans 8:38-39

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:18



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