



SESSION 3 - MORE LOVE

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Jesus offers more love by demonstrating what true love looks like.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:8, John 15:12-13, 1 John 4:8, Philippians 2:5-8

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

Get someone in the group to make a list of the songs you name as a group. Have a few different genres of music prepared to keep the list going. These questions will get the group thinking about the topic of love, which is the focus of the discussion.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read the various scriptures out loud and have the group discuss the emotions, images, and thoughts these verses evoke. Get the group thinking about the way the word love is used here in contrast to how our culture uses the same word.

Old Testament scholar Gary Smith defines God's love as "irrational power," because it is "unexplainable and paradoxical since it is undeserved. It is a free giving of one's self to another to care for, forgive, and protect that person—without strings or conditions. Human language can never adequately define or surround the concept of divine love; it can only point to acts of God's love with amazement and respond either with disbelief or warm acceptance and peace." For that reason, we look to the cross of Jesus as the ultimate act of love and then decide how we can give ourselves to others in a way that points them to Jesus.

LIFE APPLICATION

Use this time for discussion about how we all have been given more of Christ's love, regardless of our sins. Discuss and challenge one another on how we can use Christ's example in our own lives to show more love to the people in our circle of influence.

CHALLENGE

Author Mitch Albom said, "The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others." As we consider how Jesus demonstrates more love, consider ways that you can joyfully and willingly give your own life to bring others good. Make loving others a priority this week, and we'll discuss next week what kind of difference that made in your life and others.