

LOVE WINS – LIFE Group Study Guide

Love Draws Close – Matthew 9:9-38

Pastor Miles McPherson :: March 6, 2016



This week, Pastor Miles talked about God’s unconditional love for us. Even if we feel unlovable or don’t deserve it, God still loves us! In our discussion today, we’ll explore both receiving God’s love and sharing God’s love with others.

Opening Discussion:

1. What makes you feel loved? –or–
2. Describe a time when someone did something for you that really made you feel loved
3. Read the following verses aloud, then discuss the comparison chart below in light of what those verses say about God’s love
→ Romans 5:8, Psalm 86:15, 1 John 3:1, John 15:13

Santa Clause Love	Agape Love – The Heart of God
1. Conditional – I can earn or deserve it	1. Unconditional
2. Get what I want	2. Get what I need
3. Bless me even if I reject him	3. Justice

Digging Deeper: Read Romans 8:31-39

4. Do you really believe that God is “for you”? Why or why not?
5. In the list of things that describe God’s loves for you, what encourages you the most?
6. What makes you feel separated from God’s love?
7. According to these verses, is what you’re feeling based on truth?

If Satan can get you to believe a lie about God's love for you, then he has defeated you. The way to counteract his deception is to REPENT – repent means to change your mind. RENOUNCE the lie that you've believed about being unlovable or about God not loving you like he says he does. Then EMBRACE God's truth of his love for you.

→ As a group, declare out loud the promise that **“NOTHING will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

How do you describe love? Is it a feeling? Is it how others make you feel when you're around them? If so, then it's really not love – it's selfishness! True love is others-focused and works for the good of others. It's not wrong to feel good when you're around other people, but if that's what you're looking for, then love will be fickle and changing. Our response of God's love in our lives is to love others with the same kind of unconditional love that God shows us:

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. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:10-11 (ESV)

As you receive God's love into your life, you are able to share God's love with others.

8. Who do you need to show unconditional love to this week?

Take it Home:

Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you and to bring his love and comfort into your life:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any event from your past that has made you feel unlovable or doubt God's love for you
2. Then ask him what the truth is about that situation
3. Renounce any lie that you've believed based on that, confess any sin that you've held on to, and embrace God's truth
4. Thank him for his love and spend some time enjoying his presence

How did Jesus show love to...

- The woman at the well? (John 4:4-30, 39-42)
- The rich young ruler? (Mark 10:17-22)
- The woman caught in adultery? (John 8:1-11)