

**questions.**

1. What is one thing that stuck out to you from the message this past week?
2. Jesus and John seemed to be the closest of friends? What one thing makes a close relationship meaningful to you?
3. John called himself the beloved (be-loved) because he knew he was loved by God. Why might it be hard for people to realize they too are God's beloved?
4. The story of Nicodemus (John 3:1-6) points us to an natural impossibility of being "born again" to the reality that Jesus is the only way to be spiritually "born again" so that we might enter heaven. Think about this reality. And though this is true, why might believers still be so reluctant to share this with others?
5. Read John 3:16. Spend some time discussing what this verse means to you. Is there a part of this verse that is hard to grasp? Why? After discussion, add the Enduring Word Commentary insight to your conversation with the same question.

God (The Almighty Authority)  
So Loved the World (The Mightiest Motive)  
That He gave Jesus (The Greatest Gift)  
For everyone (The Widest Welcome)  
That whoever believes (The Easiest Escape)  
Will not Perish (The Divine Deliverance)  
But have eternal life (The Priceless Prize)

6. The Bible teaches that we become a new creation in Christ when we put our faith in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Pastor Phill point to 3 life changes when we are changed by God's love:
  - a. We sit where others don't sit: We have a new closeness that helps us to know his love and will.
  - b. We stand where others don't stand: We are given purpose.
  - c. We see what others don't see: You see him at work in the world around you.

What helps you feel close to God? (Look back at question 2. Is this true in your relationship with Jesus?)

How would you define and discover?

Where do you see God at work around you?

*Close in prayer if not going on to q7.*

Going Deeper: These questions invite your group to respond at a more personal level. These questions move from answering as “us” to answering for themselves. Going from “We” to “Me”.

7. Here we go:

- a. Jesus made it clear that only those who put their faith in Jesus are saved. If God has made his love clear, why do you hesitate from telling others that they are only saved by faith in Jesus as well?
- b. Sitting close to Jesus is all about relationships. In what ways do you regularly make time to get to know Jesus? Where are you lacking?
- c. Looking back on question 3. Is it hard for you to accept you are God’s beloved? Why or why not?
- d. Read Luke 10:27. There is a close relationship between loving others as we first love ourselves. Do you have a hard time loving yourself? Take time to pray for one another that God will help you clearly see that you are deeply loved in that space of your life. (Leader: You can share with one another, or make space for the Holy Spirit to speak in your time of prayer, and pray over them.)
- e. Action step: Throughout this next week, how can you make some additional time to seek God, asking Him to show his love to you?