

Cell Group Lesson:
The Love of God
(To us, to Him, to others)

Ice Breaker: What song or chorus do you love to sing the most in church?

Facilitator's Opening Comment: There are three aspects to God's love: His love for us, our love for Him and our love for each other. Let's first discuss God's love for us.

Read

Nehemiah 9:17 - They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them. (NIV)

Question: *How are we sometimes like the **children of Israel of the Old Testament**?*

Answer: *Refusing to listen, failing to remember God's past miracles in our lives, rebellious.*

Question: *How did God **respond** to them in this verse?*

Answer: *Forgiving, gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love and always there.*

Read

1st Comment

It's been said that "You can't do anything to make God love you *more*; and you can't do anything to make God love you *less* ... He just loves you."

Question: *What is the **meaning** of this quote?*

Answer: *That God's love is truly unconditional*

Question: *How does it affect our relationship with our Heavenly Father, if we grew up in an environment where love was given **conditionally**?*

Answer: *We can feel that God's love for us is also conditional and based on what **we do**, not based on **who we are**. That God love us only when we do **right** and withdraws His love when we do **wrong**.*

Facilitator's Comments: *The following two scriptures verify God's unconditional love for us, let's read...*

Read

Isaiah 54:10 - Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (NIV)

Psalms 66:20 - Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me! (NIV)

Question: *How does knowing that God's love is unconditional, help us to live for Him?*

Answer: * *We feel free to go to Him with any situation or problem in our lives.*

* *We can go to the Lord without fear of rejection, when we need His forgiveness.*

* *We don't feel that we must to be perfect to continue to receive His love.*

Read

2nd Comment

The song we sang as children goes: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so..." This song **doesn't** say "Jesus loves me this I know, for my **feelings** tell me so." God's love for us is from everlasting to everlasting and is not based on our feelings. He just loves us!

Facilitator's Comments: *Now let's talk about **our** Love for God. We are to be completely sold-out to the Lord, as described in the following verse....*

Read

Deuteronomy 6:5 - And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Facilitator Comments: *What are the benefits given in the following three verses that we receive by loving God?*

Read

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Answer: *All things will work together **for the good.***

Read

Psalms 119:132 - Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name. (NIV)

Answer: *God will turn to us and give us His **mercy.***

Read

Psalms 91:14 - "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. (NKJV)

Answer: *God will **deliver** us out of our situations.*

Facilitator's Comments: *Now let's talk about our love for each other*

Read

John 13:35 - By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Question: *How does our love for one another show the world that we are disciples of the Lord?*

Answer: * *We love each other without regard to race or culture.*

* *We show forgiveness to one another.*

* *We carry each other's burdens, through prayer and encouragement.*

Read

Colossians 2:2 - That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Question: *Sometimes our hearts are "**knit together in love**" more with our church family, than our blood/nature family, why is this sometimes true?*

Answer: * *We see each other more often (2 to 3+ times a week = 100 to 150+ times a year, we*

get together)

* *We know more about each other so we know about each others day-to-day struggles*

where most natural family we only see at special occasions.

* *We share common values and morals.*

* *We share a common purpose: sharing the message of God's saving power and love with others.*

Read

James 2:8 - If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Question: Why do you think that 'loving your neighbor as yourself' is called the "royal" law?

Read

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, keep My commandments. (KJV)

Question: Why is this verse the Lord's test to see if you really love Him?

Answer: Sometimes we say we love the Lord, but don't keep His commandments. Our love is shown by our actions not just our words.

Facilitator's Comments: *Let's read our final scripture as a statement of Victory.*

Read

Rom 8:38 – For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Read

Final Comment: Let's take this verse and live in the Heavenly security that nothing shall separate us from God's love. Let's accept God's inseparable love and follow the Lord's commandment in John 15:12 -*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* (NKJV)

Cell Group Reading Material: The Love of God

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