

DATE: July 23rd, 2023

TITLE: For Your Joy:
God Is Love

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7-12

SPEAKER: Ben Sepulveda

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING PRAYER

ICE BREAKER: What is your favorite fried food? (I do not like fried food is not an acceptable answer) Remember, there are no wrong answers. :)

THINK BACK: Referring back to this week's sermon... What is the BIG IDEA of the Scripture AS IT WAS TAUGHT THIS WEEK? Was there anything that left you with questions?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 John 4:7-12. Consider the teaching so far in this series, discuss the themes that have been recurring in the letter (ex. addressing false teachers, loving your brother, pursuing each other as Jesus' pursued us, God is light, God is love).
2. John appeals to the church to love each other because "whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." In your own words, discuss what John is saying to the church in v7-8.
3. Read 1 John 4:9-10. Then read Romans 5:6-8. Two men, one God; the message of Paul and John speak to the same truth. We serve a God that pursued us in full knowledge of our condition and actively showed supreme love towards us. Share with each other about when you came to understand that God's love was shown to you through the death of His Son Jesus as payment for your sin. How are you daily and actively reminding yourself and each other of that truth?
4. Have you considered that to love as God commanded you is to love others personally and He personally loved you? How are you sacrificially loving the people in your life for the sake of the Gospel?
5. To supremely love someone is to know God, to love Him, and to love others by telling others about Him and sacrificing for them as He sacrificed for you. No part of that statement can be sacrificed as we pursue obedience to God. So how are you telling others about Jesus? How are you showing them the God that you serve? How can we do that together?

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Romans 5:6-8
- 1 John 3:16
- Deuteronomy 6:5-6
- Mark 12:28-34
- Galatians 2:20

APPLICATION

Think about what most caught your attention in the text or discussion. Why is God catching your attention with this at this point in your life? What does God want you to know or do? What's one thing from this text that you could say to an unbeliever about who God is?

PRAYER

Ask people for specific prayer requests. Pray for needs and for applications of the text. Ask for volunteers who would like to pray for those people and requests.

SHEPHERDING

Check the roster and see who is not there. Does the group know why someone is not there? Are there needs that can be met by the group? Specific prayer requests? Ask for someone to reach out and say, "We missed you."

REMINDERS

Small Group Checklist

- Ask about ideas to serve in some way together. Serve 1x every six weeks or so.
- Encourage people to invite friends or neighbors to your group!! One way to reach 'out' together is to welcome people 'in.'
- Discuss childcare, if needed.
- Talk about any upcoming group meals or activities.

Check the bulletin, monthly newsletter and events page on the website for ways that you can get plugged in, as well as events here at FCC. Here are a couple of those things:

-Our first Faith Training Class, "Jonah Was a Prophet", will be August 27th after 2nd service! Register online! Cost is \$10 to cover lunch expenses. Scholarships are available!

-The VBS giving tree is still in the foyer. Grab a slip to see how you can donate items to our dinners all week long. There is still time to register your little ones as well! Thank you to all who signed up to serve!

-SAVE THE DATE for our SUMMER PICNIC on Sunday, August 13th! We will have one indoor service at 10am with outdoor baptisms, lunch and fun to follow!