



Summer at Parkview - Week 4

July 20-21, 2019 | Sam Collier

This weekend speaker and podcaster Sam Collier encouraged us to think about the relentless love of God by focusing on what Christian theology calls "the Holy Trinity."

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about a dream you had when you were younger (or one that you still have today). Sam Collier talked about his dream for a car with TV's in the headrest, etc. What is it about your dream that makes it so compelling you?
2. Talk about your first thought when Sam began to talk about the Holy Trinity. What thoughts or ideas triggered for you when he mentioned that concept?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. One principle that can change everything about us is the unrelenting love of God.

2. The Holy Trinity serves as a foundation for God's unrelenting love.
3. God the Father loves you more than anyone else ever has, or ever could.
4. Love is always qualified by action.
5. Many of us have heard that God loves us, but we struggle to believe it.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Matthew 27:45-54

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that really struck you. Share why it stuck out to you.
2. In the message, Sam talked about an experience where his father came to the scene of Sam's car accident. He compared his dad's love for him, in a small way, to the love of God for all of us. Talk about how this picture compares to the way you see the love of God for you. How does your relationship with your own father affect how you see God's love?
3. Read Romans 8:32-39. Read carefully, making note of any words or phrases that stand out to you. In Paul's letter to the churches in Rome he is trying to bring together a church that is divided. On one hand, you have Jewish followers of Jesus some of whom believe they alone are God's elect people. On the other, you have Gentile (non-Jewish) followers of Jesus who make up the largest number of people in the Roman churches but are often seen as outsiders. Paul is attempting to show them that all are now welcome in God's family, because of Jesus.
4. Paul says that Jesus was God's greatest gift to us (8:32). Talk about how that idea strikes you. How is Jesus a gift to you - both individually and to your group as a whole? How does Paul's "if...then" statement in this verse reveal even bigger things that come to us through Jesus?
5. Paul talks about what unites and what separates people from God and each other (8:34-37). Talk about the way you've seen love exert the power to both unite AND separate. How can bringing people together in the love of Jesus lead to "overcoming" the things that separates us?
6. Sam Collier said that "Love is always qualified by action." Talk about how you see this idea brought out in Romans 8:32-37. How does the action of Jesus in living, dying, and rising remind you of God's love for you?
7. Paul takes a wide view of every power and enemy of love (8:36-37) He says that not only are these powers unable to separate people from God, but that Jesus is actually "Lord" over them. The word in Greek here literally means "King." Talk about how the idea of Jesus as "king" brings God's love into a new light for you.
8. Sam showed a clip from the movie The Passion of the Christ where Jesus is subjected to lashes at the hands of the Roman authorities. This (and the crucifixion) was a punishment reserved for people who were threats to the Roman Empire. Talk about whether or not you were able to watch the clip. Talk about how this radical, unrelenting love of Jesus

threatens the "empires" we build in our own lives. How might the unrelenting love of Jesus rescue us from trying to run our own kingdoms?

Closing Prayer:

God, your love is amazing to us. We don't really understand it, but we feel it like a breeze all around us as we see the action of Jesus. We see you in Jesus' death for us. The Father you are becomes very clear in the sacrifice of Jesus. Thank you for loving us enough to die, but not only that. Thank you for raising Jesus from the dead so that we can live a new, energetic, resurrected kind of life both now and forever. You are good. Thank you for all you do for us.

Amen.