

10-1925 Small group guide and study questions

Small Group Guide: Experiencing God's Love

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Paul is praying for Christians to experience a deep, relational encounter with God's love.
2. This experience goes beyond intellectual understanding to a personal, transformative encounter.
3. Experiencing God's love leads to expressing God's love to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions the difference between wanting God and wanting what God can give us. How do you see this distinction playing out in your own life and prayer?
2. Paul prays for believers to be "strengthened with power in your inner being." What do you think this means practically? How have you experienced this in your life?
3. The sermon talks about "becoming who you already are" in Christ. What aspects of your identity in Christ do you struggle to fully embrace or live out?
4. How does the idea of prayer as "answering speech" (responding to God's initiative) change your perspective on prayer?
5. The sermon mentions experiencing God through faith, the Holy Spirit, and listening to Scripture. Which of these areas do you feel you need to grow in most?
6. How have you seen experiencing God's love lead to expressing that love to others in your life?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, set aside time to "gaze on God's beauty" through Scripture reading and prayer, focusing on experiencing His presence rather than just asking for things.
2. Identify one area where you're not living as "who you already are" in Christ. What steps can you take to align your actions with your identity?
3. Practice "listening prayer" by spending time in silence, allowing God to speak to you through His Word and Spirit.
4. Look for an opportunity to express God's love to someone you find difficult to love, remembering God's unconditional love for you.

Closing Prayer:

Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19 over your group members, asking God to give each person a fresh encounter with His love.