The GOAT

THE GREATEST – WEEK 1

MAIN IDEA:

Love is the greatest because God fully knows us, fully loves us, and his love anchors our faith and hope.

1 Opening: The Greatest of All Time

DISCUSS:

1.) We love debating who or what is the greatest. Why do you think Paul places love above even faith and hope?

2.) When you think about the Christian life, is it easier to focus on what you believe, what you do, or how you love? Why?

2 Fully Known and Fully Loved

> *"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known." - 1 Corinthians 13:12*

DISCUSS:

3.) Tim Keller described two fears: being loved but not truly known, and being known but not loved. Which do you think people struggle with the most today? Why?

4.) Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that God knows everything about us and still loves us?

5.) How might your relationship with God change if you genuinely lived every day believing you were fully known and fully loved?

3 Love Anchors Faith and Hope

> *"Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love." - 1 Corinthians 13:12*

DISCUSS:

6.) Faith looks back at God's faithfullness. Hope looks foward to God's promises. How does knowing God loves us strengthen both?

7.) Think about a season when trusting God was difficult. How did your understanding of God's love affect your faith and hope?

8.) What happens to our relationship with God when we begin to doubt His love for us?

4 Living in the Love of God

> *"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
> *- Romans 8:38-39*

DISCUSS:

9.) What is the difference between knowing intellectually that God loves you and actually living as someone who is loved by God?

10.) If you were completely convinced that God knows you and loves you, what would change about the way you live this week?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Jesus calls us to love God, love one another, and love our neighbor. But before we can live a life of love, we must receive the love of God.