

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Way of Wonder

Love

August 31-September 3, 2023

Start Talking

Last week, Pastor Jackson shared that he is a Michigan fan and all other Campus Pastors except one are OSU fans. This week, Pastor Drew clarified that he is an OSU fan. As college football kicks off, who is your favorite team? And what is your favorite thing about fall?

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Drew taught us about God's love experienced and expressed. To express God's love to others, we must first experience His love ourselves. Everyone has a God-shaped hole in their heart, and we often try to fill it with everything other than Him. When we place God first in our lives, we can experience His love to the fullest; it is the only place we will find our value in life. When we experience God's love to the fullest, His love will overflow from our life into the lives of others. When we extend God's love to others, we discover our true purpose and make a difference in God's kingdom.

Personalize It

1. Pastor Drew shared this quote, "We all have a God-shaped vacuum in our lives" - Pascal. Nothing and no one can fill that hole the same way God can. Are you trying to fill that hole with anyone or anything other than God?
2. Our life should be an overflow of the love we are experiencing from God. What can you do to experience more of the love God has for you so that His love overflows even more into the lives of others?
3. When we experience the fullness of God's love for ourselves, we are called to carry His love and actively share it. Are you carrying God's love and sharing God's love?

Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. If you feel that you are not experiencing God's love to the fullest or you recognize you are putting an area or person in your life before God, identify and take a step this week to put Him first and experience more of His love.
2. We are called to carry and share the love of God. What is your next step to express God's love to someone this week?
3. One of the ways we can express God's love is to join a Difference Maker Team. If you are not on a Difference Maker Team, a great next step is to go to Getting Started and discover how God has wired and gifted you to make a difference. Our next Getting Started is Sunday, September 24th. Find some time this week to take Steps 1 and 2 online.

Let's Pray

Father, thank You for Your love that You show to us and let us experience. Lord, we ask for You to reveal anything in our lives that we put before You that prohibits us from experiencing Your love to the fullest. God, if we carry this love and not express it to others, please show us how to express Your love to someone else. Thank You for everything You do for us. We love You, praise You, and submit ourselves to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Key Scriptures

Psalm 139:14 (NIV)

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NLT)

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

John 15:10-12 (NIV)

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

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Teaching Notes

The Way of Wonder Love - August 31 - September 3

Two things we're going to touch on this weekend:

- God's love experienced
- God's love expressed

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Psalm 139:14 NIV

Created to be the object of His affection.

In today's culture we are subjected daily to the artificial, man-made idea that we are ordinary... The Amazing Love Story of the gospel screams the opposite. "You are no cosmic accident thrown into the night skies of chance. You are fearfully and wonderfully made in the very image of a God who is head over heels crazy nuts in love with you."

God's love experienced... that's the only place we'll discover where our life has value and security.

God's love experienced changes me... God's love expressed changes someone else...

Expressed: What we do with it...

The Dead Sea – nothing flows out of it

God's never intended for His love to just fill us... He intended for it to also flow through us!

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Those of us who have experienced the love of a relationship with Jesus Christ carry with us the greatest news... the story that can change lives... change the world... change eternity! Are you carrying it, or are you sharing it?

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A simple invitation...

God's love experienced

- security & value

God's love expressed

- purpose & significance