

# I AM WHO I AM - Love

Ice-Breaker: Describe your first love.

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. (1 John 4:16b)*

*The depth of His love is known by...*

- ***How little it is deserved*** – “Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” ***(Rom. 5:7-8)***  
*Are you prone to love only those that deserve it? What does that look like? How hard is it for you to receive God’s love knowing you don’t deserve it?*

*He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matt. 5:45)*

- ***How much it cost*** – “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” ***(Mark 15:34)***  
*What might be some costs to you for one who receives your love?*
- ***The magnitude of the benefits*** – “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” ***(1 John 3:1a)***  
*Name some benefits of one who receives your love.*
- ***The freedom of the choice*** – “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.” ***(John 10:18)***  
*Jesus freely loved and died for all. When was the last time you chose to freely do something for someone that was not motivated by any obligation?*

*And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. (Rom. 5:5)*

*Therefore...*

- ***Love the One who is love*** – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” ***(Mark 12:30)***

⚠ ***Danger: seeking love in cheap substitutes*** – “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” ***(1 John 2:15)*** *Identify some cheap substitutes that are prone to steal your love from God.*

- ***Love as you’ve been loved*** – “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” ***(Eph. 5:1-2)***

*We love because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)*

We clearly do not love like God loves. However, we can work at it. Name one or two things you are willing to do differently as a result of asking and answering the questions above. Pray together as a group for awareness and motivation to get better in this area.