

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: God Promises

Main Idea: What are you struggling with? What are you hoping for? What is it you need Jesus to do in your life? In this series, we look at Jesus' words and find his explicit promises for his followers—promises that seem to always speak directly to our pain.

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Does God Still Love Me?

Main Text: John 3:16; Luke 15:4, 7

Supporting Text(s): 1 John 4:8-10, Luke 9:54, Romans 5:8

Message Outline:

Almost all of us have probably heard that God so loved “the world” (John 3:16), and many of us believe it! But do you find it harder to believe that God loves *YOU*? In this message—studying the words of Jesus regarding the heart of the Father—we learn that God's love for each of us is personal and passionate.

You Are The One Jesus Loves

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

Saint Augustine

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Luke 15:4

“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?”

This is God’s heart for all his sheep—including you—to chase after them until they are found!

God Didn’t Just Promise His Love, He Proved It.

1 John 4:8-10

God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

This verse was written by John, brother of James, and one of the 12 disciples.

- John and James were nicknamed, “The Sons of Thunder”
- There are a few accounts that would lead us to believe, John, despite spending so much time with Jesus still struggled to grasp his grace and love.
- But in his gospel, he refers to himself as “The one Jesus loved”.

John got it.

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No matter what you've done in your past, no matter how far away from God you feel, you are the one Jesus loves.

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. What comes to mind when you hear John 3:16? Does this sound cliché or does it still resonate?
2. Do you believe that God loves the world but struggle to believe he loves you?
3. When you read the parable of the shepherd leaving the 99 to find the 1, what does that say to you about God's love?
4. John referring to himself as "the one Jesus loved" might seem silly, or arrogant even—but isn't it true? How aware are you of this being your identity?
5. When do you feel God's love the most tangibly?

General questions:

6. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
7. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
8. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?

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9. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?