



- The secret to loving well is to first experience that you are **loved well**.

We love because he (Jesus) first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

- The first step to love is not to step towards **them**; it is to step towards **Him!**

- Your lack of love for God does not affect God's **abundance** of love for you.

18 ...may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; 19 and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself. Ephesians 3:18-19 (TLB)

- God wants everyone to discover and experience **His love** for themselves.

#### Types of Love:

- PHILEO = **Brotherly** love.
- EROS = **Passionate** love.
- AGAPE = **Unconditional God** love.

#### Definition of Unconditional Love:

Without any conditions, not contingent, not determined or influenced by someone or something else.

#### Another Definition of Love:

Not a feeling, it is desiring and doing the best for someone though it may not be reciprocated.

- God loving you doesn't mean you're in **relationship** with God.

- God's love for you is unconditional, but relationship with God is **conditional**.

9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 (NLT)

14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

21 The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both. 1 John 4:21 (MSG)

- God's Love for you makes a relationship **possible** to you.

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (NLT)

35 It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. Acts 10:35 (MSG)

- Relationship with Jesus changes your **identity**.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Ephesians 1:11

#### What we need to understand about God's love:

- God loves **everyone** the **same**.

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us ....This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

8 The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. 9 The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. Psalm 145:8-9 (NLT)

- Love isn't just something God does, it's **who God is**.

8 ... God is love. 1 John 4:8 (NLT)

- God's love gives us **free will**.

19 Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! 20 You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life... Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NLT)

- God's love is **sacrificial**.

9 This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. 10 This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. 1 John 4:9-10 (MSG)

#### How we Respond to God's Love:

- Love others with the same love that **God** has **loved** you.

7 My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. 8 The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. 1 John 4:7-8 (MSG)

19 We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NIV)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words, How does God's love for you define you?
- Why do we need to personally experience God's love for ourselves?
- What does God's unconditional love mean to you?
- Why do you think that people outside the church have a problem with God's love? Do you think they have a problem with God loving them?
- Do you find it difficult to believe that God loves you unconditionally? What does unconditionally mean? What does it not mean?
- While God's love is unconditional, relationship with God is conditional. Why is that important to understand? What does that mean to you? Do you find that difficult to accept?
- Why does God love everyone the same? Are there benefits to having a relationship with God that outsiders don't have?(The answer is yes BTW) What are some of them?
- Why is free will so important in our relationship with God? What does it say about God's love for us?
- How do we love others with unconditional love? How do we tap into that source?

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