

# BEING WITH GOD- GOD'S LOVE

**JOHN 15:9**

**CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - JANUARY 7, 2024**

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## SCRIPTURE READING

*John 15:9 ESV*

*9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*

## ICE BREAKER QUESTION

How can you tell that you really love someone?

## SERMON RECAP

God is always loving, even before He created anything else to love.

- The Trinity is a divine community of eternal love.
- The life Jesus lived gives us a window into God's love.

God loves us despite our sinfulness.

- Jesus spent three years with His disciples who exhibited that they: were power hungry (James and John), harbored prejudice (Nathanael), were skeptical and struggled with doubt (Thomas), distanced themselves from Jesus to save themselves (Peter and the rest).
- God's love isn't dependent on our consistency. His love is dependent on His commitment to us.

God invites us to live in continuous enjoyment of His love.

- Obedience is not the way we earn God's love. It's the way we learn to enjoy God's love for us and how we express our love for God.
- In biblical Christianity, obeying God means you have to give up the things that are keeping you from supernatural joy! God's commands are always invitations to experience something better.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. Read John 15:9 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
  - What are some ways that God expresses love to us?
  - What are some ways that we express love to God?
  - What are some ways that God's love abides in us and that we abide in Him?
  - How would you summarize John 15:9 in your own words?

**Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21.
  - How does each person of the Trinity illustrate God's love?
  - How does our love illustrate that we are in God's love?
  - How is God's love perfected in and through us?
2. Read John 13:1; Deuteronomy 7:7-8
  - What biblical examples can you cite where people of God failed God?
  - What biblical examples can you cite where God restored people who failed Him?
  - What can God's people do to seek restoration when we fall short?
3. Read John 15:9-11

- How does God's love abide in us?
- What does our obedience or lack of obedience say about our love for God?
- How does loving obedience impact our joy?

***Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?***

1. God loves us.
  - How does God remind you of His love in this season of your life?
  - How can you experience more of God's love in your life?
2. Sin separates us from God until we seek restoration.
  - As you enter the new year, what sin do you harbor in your heart that you need to confess?
  - How does repentance illustrate your spiritual growth?
3. Joy is knowing that there's nothing we can do to earn God's love.
  - How can you live and love more joyfully in the coming year?
  - How can you be with God more right now and in the coming year and how can your Church Group support you in that pursuit?

## **LEADER NOTES**

**21 DAYS OF PRAYER** | Over three weeks, from January 15-February 4, we're taking some extra time to dedicate this year to the Lord. Sign up [HERE](#) to let us know you're joining us, as well as to access some helpful resources for this intentional season of prayer

**SERVE AT NIGHT TO SHINE** | MBC Tysons is hosting Night to Shine 2024 on Friday, February 9 from 5-10 pm. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. Volunteers are needed to serve as hairdressers, makeup artists, food servers, and buddies for each guest. Sign up here to serve no later than January 22. Contact [Caleb Barnhart](#) with questions.

