



Session Three: God is Love

INTRODUCTION

Maybe the most simple thing we've ever learned about God is also the most complex : God is love. It's a hard truth for us to understand because we're influenced by so many other views of him. So how does it work exactly? And what do we do with that transforming love once we recognize it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "Love has the capacity to transform people." How have you seen or experienced this truth in your life or someone else's?
2. **Read 1 John 4:7-12.**
 - Who do you know that demonstrates the kind of love John talks about?
 - What do you think John meant when he wrote, "God is love"?
 - Why would it be impossible to know God if you're not loving?
 - How does love help overcome the problems and fears we have about sharing our faith with others?
3. How would you explain Jesus' love to someone in simple terms? Can you think of any better way to explain love than Jesus?
4. **Read John 12:1-8.**
 - What are the differences in how Mary and Judas responded to Jesus?
 - What do you think is your default response when you're faced with the opportunity to demonstrate extraordinary, generous love—the Mary way or the Judas way?
 - Would you say your relationship with God is characterized by love? Why or why not?
5. Matt challenged us to say to ourselves, "I can allow Jesus to keep instructing me how to demonstrate love to others." What are some practical things you can do to learn from Jesus' example of extraordinary love?
6. If God is love and those who know him walk in love, how is your love life? Would you characterize it as safe, predictable, and detached or is it lit up with joy, risk, and attachment? Why or why not?

Moving Forward

Can you think of a better way to explain love to a world that's desperate for it than the person of Jesus? God couldn't. When he decided to show humanity what love really looks like, he did it by sending Jesus to sacrifice his life on our behalf. That's love. And we have the opportunity to respond to God's extraordinary love for us by demonstrating extraordinary love toward the people around us.