

LOVE

Theme: Love

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: God is Love and God loves us.

Key Scripture: *1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

Read: God's kingdom is like a coin. There is heads and there is tails, and yet the two sides make up the one coin.

When we look at this scripture we see this two sided coin in operation in relation to God's love. John says God is love and that this love is for us, and that the one who abides in love abides in God. He is the embodiment of love. He is the source of love and we are never to separate God from love. This is one side of the coin.

On the other side of the coin, John declares that he and others have come to know this love and believed in it. This knowing and believing is a deep rooted conviction of God's love through experiencing God as love. This isn't a knowing about God's love, but this is having a deeply rooted conviction that is immovable and unshakable, through the receiving of God's love through revelation. This is about experiencing a tangible impartation of the substance of God within us, so we know without any doubt God loves us.

This creates an absolute confidence within us and an assurance that we are His and He is ours, and that nothing can separate us from this love, which is God Himself. This is a powerful reality to know and be experiencing today through our ongoing relationship with the Lord.

Questions:

1. Before hearing what you have just heard how would you have defined what love was?
2. What is the difference between knowing 'about' God and His love for us, and receiving an impartation of God and His love for us through revelation of the Spirit?
3. Experiencing God's love within us, is such a powerful dynamic, which affects every area of our relationship with Him. Share with the group your experience of the love of God and the changes it has brought within you.
4. The scriptures teach us if we abide in love then we are abiding in God. What can we expect to be experiencing in our lives, if we are truly abiding in love the way God instructs?

Application: Ask the group members if they are hungry and thirsty to receive God's love or a greater measure of it, and get them praying for one another through the laying on of hands. Look to create an atmosphere that is conducive for this before the prayer begins. One way of doing this is playing a song like "Reckless love" and asking everyone to set their hearts and minds upon Him and what we are asking Him to do.

Share with the group how our motive for why we desire His love is important and that we are not to doubt in our asking.