

WONDERS

Title: **THE WONDER CALLED GOD'S LOVE**

Date: March 31, 2024

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end the life group on time.
2. Facilitate discussions with your group and **give all attendees opportunities to share their thoughts**. Encourage participation.

Life Group Discussion Proper

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Option 1: In person - Home gatherings

Suggestions: Assign someone to lead worship or play two praise & worship songs from You Tube.

Option 2: In person gatherings at a public place (at the park, school campus or café) or Online home gatherings (via Zoom or other online meeting platform)

Suggestions: Ask three to four people to share testimonies of answered prayers or ask the group, "What are you thankful to God about this past week?"

Main Text: Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 NIV

Intro: Today, we are celebrating the Lord's resurrection that took place 2000 yrs. ago! Without His Resurrection, there is no Christianity! The Resurrection of Jesus is the **bedrock** or the **cornerstone** of our Christian faith. Our faith in Christ leads us into eternal life through His sacrificial death on the cross and His resurrection. His death was the result of His great love for us. A love like no other.

WELCOME:(15 mins): IWC - Introduce yourself. Welcome guests/first-time visitors. Cheerfully call someone to do the same.

Ice-breaker: Ask the group and give time for participation.

Q: What do you think is the greatest demonstration of God's eternal love for humanity?

WORD (30–45 mins)

1. He loved us while we were still sinners (*rebels, disobedient, God-haters, etc.*) - He loves us not because we are good people, but despite our rebellious nature. This does not imply acceptance or tolerance of our sins; in reality, God detests our sins. However, His love for us remains unconditional. It is His nature, to love the way He loves us.

Application:

Because we are people who were loved by God when we were still bad, we need to:

- > Ask God for the grace to love others who do us wrong!
- > Make a daily decision to forgive those people who hurt or offend us!
- > Remember Jesus who said to Peter, we need to forgive our brethren 70x7! **Read (Matthew 18:21-22)**

Discussion Questions:

Q: Would you relate the last time you had a difficult time forgiving someone who offended you?

Q: Why is it that sometimes it is difficult to overlook the offense done to us by people?

2. He proved His love for us by dying on the cross for us -

God's love transcends words; He demonstrated it through His actions. He took on human form, dwelling among us for thirty-three and a half years, culminating in His ultimate purpose of coming, to die for the atonement of our sins. *"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."* 1 John 4:9-10 NIV
cross! This is the forever reminder and proof of how great God's love is given for us!

Continuation:

The greatest treasure of heaven was sacrificed to win back the worst sinners on earth—you and me. That is why if we ever run into a place where we question just how much God loves us, simply run to the cross!

Application:

Christ's resurrection was the result of His sacrificial death on the cross and His death was the result of His great love for us. A love like no other!

Discussion Questions:

Q: What has been the biggest gift (or favor) someone has given/done for you? (ex. Someone gave me a brand new car; wiped my debt clean, treat me to a holiday, bought me a house, etc.). **How did you feel about that very moment when you received the gift?**

Q: What has been the biggest gift (or favor) you have given /done for someone? (ex. Spouse, family member, child, friend, relative, etc.). **What was their reaction that very moment they received the gift from you?**

3. Nothing can separate us from His love

God's unconditional love is eternal! As we choose to stay in His love and love Him back, trust Him in every situation, in every season of our lives, we will enjoy His amazing goodness.

As a group, read with conviction the passage of Romans 8: 28-39 (NLT) together.

Key Verses:

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:28-39 NLT

Discussion Questions:

Q: What verse or verses captured your heart while you were reading the passage? What is the verse saying to you personally?

Q: If He loved us even while we were sinners or before we were born, what do you think will stop God from continually loving us today?

Q: If we have been recipients of God's love, in what practical ways can we share this love to others around us?

Conclusion:

We are designed for love, with a deep longing to both receive and give love. The worldly concept of love often equates to lust, a selfish, self-serving mindset that views others as commodities we can use. This misconception leads many to experience disillusionment in their relationships. Only God's love can truly fulfill the profound longings of our hearts. Only God's love can help us discover genuine love once and for all by entrusting our hearts to the One who genuinely cares for us—Jesus Christ.

Today can be the day when you experience, beyond mere understanding, the essence of true love, allowing your heart to burst forth in resurrection ecstasy and joy. Let us pray.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKE-AWAY FROM THE LESSON?

Tell your group to partner with someone and ask this question to their partner.

Q: What impacted you the most from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer (15 mins.)

1. Memorize a verse from your devotions this week and be prepared to share it on our next gathering.
2. Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well. Ask each other, **"what can I pray for you?"**

Leader's Notes:

1. Please remind your group of your next gathering and ask them to invite a friend.
2. Please encourage the group to remember to pray for one another during the week.
3. Assign someone to share from his/her devotion to the group next week. (min. of 5mins.)