

LIFE GROUP – WEEK THREE

Enjoying God's Love

Psalm 136

This Fall, our sermon series is a deep dive into one of our core values as a church: enjoying God. Each week, we will focus on a different attribute of God and discover how we can go beyond knowing about God intellectually and begin to enjoy God relationally.

SERMON RECAP

Our world has all kinds of ideas about what love is. A feeling. A desire. An emotional attachment.

But the Bible is clear: God is love. Love is defined by who God is and how he acts. God loves through creating, rescuing, leading, protecting, and providing.

But we don't always enjoy God's love as we should - whether because of sin, shame, insecurity, or believing lies. But Psalm 136 reassures us again and again...

His faithful love endures forever!

GETTING STARTED

Ice Breaker: What is something little that you love more than anyone else you know? (Example: Gummy peach candy. Back off my Peachie-Os 😊)

Going Deeper: What makes you feel more loved - kind words or kind actions?

REMINDER

These guides are meant to facilitate PRESENCE - to God and one another - not to check boxes. Feel free to let conversation naturally flow to whichever questions connect with you personally. As the Spirit leads you, feel free to set aside this guide to pause, praise, and pray together.

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - head, heart, and hands. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.

HEAD	God's love is expressed in many ways - in Psalm 136 we see that in his love, God creates, rescues, leads, protects, and provides. What biblical examples can you think of that display God's love in these ways? How else does God express his love? Can you think of an example from Scripture or your own life? What do you think is the biggest misunderstanding people have about God's love?
HEART	What is the danger of basing our understanding of God's love on our circumstances? How can we be sure of his love in the midst of difficult times? When have you felt the love of God most deeply in your own life? Was it a season, a particular situation, a moment of provision or comfort, or something else? Can you tell that story?
HANDS	Who do you know that needs to know God loves them this week? How will you share God's love with them? PRACTICE: Bubba encouraged us at the end of his sermon to write our own version of Psalm 136, tracing God's love through the story of your life. If you did that activity, would you be willing to share your psalm? <i>(NOTE: If no one did this yet, set aside 10 minutes to do this right now in your group and invite a few people to share.)</i>

PRAY TOGETHER

Close your discussion with a time of extended prayer (10-15min). As you delight in God's love, consider using the following structure to help you enjoy God even more...

PAUSE - Breathe deeply and be still in God's presence as someone reads Psalm 136:1-3 and 1 John 4:7-10, slowly. If the Spirit brings another passage to mind about God's love, read that as well.

REJOICE - Spend a few moments in praise and thanksgiving to God for his love. Tell him how it makes you feel, how you've seen it in your life, and

ASK - Who, or what, is on your heart today? Ask God to reveal his love to those people and in those situations.

YIELD - Spend a few moments giving everything back to the God who loves you; your worries, fears, uncertainty. Rest in his love.