

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

December 27, 2020 sermon:

Rediscover Christmas: Love "Looking for love in all the wrong places"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

My favorite part of Christmas was...?

My least-favorite part of Christmas was...?

If I could ask God for a miracle in 2021 it would be...what?

On a scale of 1-10, how "loved" do you feel right now? (You don't have to explain.)

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Jesus came to earth to show us how much God loved us. His death on the cross showed this (we looked at Romans 5 in the message), but his BIRTH...the way he came into the world showed His love too. Read Philippians 2:5-11 together and point out ALL the things Jesus did that showed his commitment to loving us.

2. Does God love us? Is He with us and for us, even in hardships and circumstances like we've endure this past year? We know the right answer to those questions is "Yes, God loves me and he hasn't taken His eye off me and my circumstances!", but we often don't actually FEEL that way. Read the following passage of Scripture and discuss the reminders and promises they contain:

Romans 8:35-39

Psalms 139:1-18

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

Joshua 1:8-9

God promises to be faithful and do His part. What is OUR part?

3. God's love is not "romantic"...it is sacrificial, practical (what we really need) and it is active. God calls us to love other Christians and then the lost in a similar way. Not just "say" that we love, but really love. How much active, practical, sacrificial love did you show to others this Christmas season? How do these verses challenge us to live this way?

1 John 3:16-18

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (actions, not emotions)

Matthew 5:43-48

Romans 13:8-10

Apply it: (10 minutes)

A few of us went Christmas caroling on Monday and were shocked that many of the people who came to their closed doors to hear the songs were smiling, clapping and even weeping with joy that someone had come to them to show love at Christmas. It is not difficult to find small ways to demonstrate love and during this time of isolation and loneliness, and we all need to do more. What can your small group do to show love to a few of your church family and beyond? Brainstorm. Make a plan. Close in prayer. Get out there and show God's love!