

Life Group Homework

For the week of May 7, 2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) What did you learn about the apostle Peter from last week?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Last week we touched on the following questions: Who does God say I am, and who does God say He is? This week we will unpack some verses and make them personal to us.

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- 4) According to the verse, who does God say you are if you believe in him?
- 5) How much do you have to love someone to be willing to sacrifice your own son?
- 6) How does His love make you feel, and what does it say about who you are to Him?

Psalms 139:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

- 7) According to these verses, how much does God think about you?
- 8) How does knowing God thinks about you that often make you feel?
- 9) What do these verses reveal about God's character? (Who He is.)

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness

- 10) What do these verses say about who God is?
- 11) What would it be like to receive something brand-new every morning?
- 12) What does that kind of faithfulness do for your heart? How does it encourage you?

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

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

- 13) What does the verse reveal about God's character?
- 14) What is a natural response to being loved?

TAKING IT HOME

Knowing and trusting God's love can be two different things at times. I can know it in my mind, but if I don't feel it in my heart I will never truly respond to it. Many Christians try behavioral modification to become more Christ-like, but changing our behavior without Jesus possessing our affections only leads to discouraged Christians trying to measure up to a standard that is impossible to attain.

When I truly trust God's love for me and believe and behave as if I am loved, I naturally want to respond in kind. I want to return His love for me. The way I do that is to follow Jesus and the example He demonstrated for me through the Bible. Imitating God grows spiritual fruit in my life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control). I then see His goodness and begin to trust Him even more.

follow → trust His love → respond with love = imitate → bear fruit
(transform) → trust more deeply

That is the cycle.

15) In thinking about this cycle, where do you find yourself most often?

16) Have you ever tried behavior modification in following Christ? How did that turn out?

Beth Moore once said, "We all meditate on something."

17) How do you think you would change if every day you meditated on how much God loves you?

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

18) How does the verse say we can be transformed?

19) How would thinking about God's love for you, just as you are, become transformative?

This is a crossroad in the journey where we can choose to trade the lie (God doesn't love me, or He is out to get me, or whatever lie you have believed) for the truth (I am so completely and radically loved by God).

CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week take one verse each day and spend time thinking about how incredibly loved you are by God.

The **LONG** and the **SHORT** of it.

It's Time to Agree with God

(Series inspired by Craig Groeschel's book "Divine Direction")

Week 2

Pastor Craig Sweeney

Passage: John 20:30-31...21:1-25

One Main Thought: "Follow Me..." – It's an invitation to **FAITH**.

It's time to agree with God about a few things:

1. Who He says I am.

- **HIS** "disciples" (21:1)
- **Claimed** by love
- **Forgiven**
- His **Child**
- **Successful**...He wants and is counting on me being successful!

2. Who He is.

- "Jesus is the Messiah... the Son of God" (20:31)

3. What He says I can do.

- "believing in him"
- "have life by the power of his name." (20:31)

4. What He says I can be. (Life – This is who I am.)

- "Rock" instead of a "Reed"

Simple decisions that WILL change your life:

- I will **START**...
- I will **STOP**...
- I will **STAY**...
- I will **GO**...