

GOD'S AMAZING, TRUE LOVE

God's Love – Study No.1

Questions for small group Bible study:

1) What does God say He is like according to the following verses? This is what GOD Himself declares Himself to be. How do these statements compare with the ideas that many people in the world have of God?

See Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 103:8; 145:8.

2) God chose a particular people to be His treasured possession, setting His special love upon them and sealing it by making a binding covenant with them. What relationship is there between "love" and "covenant"? How does this compare with the marriage relationship?

See Exodus 20:6; Deut.7:7-9; 10:15; Jeremiah 31:3; Eph.1:4; 2:4; Col.3:12.

3) Take careful note of the words the Bible uses alongside of the word love to describe the depth and vastness of God's love. What words do you notice? Use other words to make these truths impact your heart. What do they tell us about the love of God for us?

See Psalm 117; Lamentations 3:22; Eph.2
Exodus 15:13; Psalm 32:10; 33:18
II Chron.5:13; Psalm 100:5; 136:1-26
Psalm 103:8; 145:8; Jonah 4:2
Psalm 36:5,7; 103:11

Share experiences briefly how & where you have experienced this amazing measure of God's love in your own life.

4) What other key word is sometimes found often linked with love (as seen in the following verses)? What do you think is the significance of this fact? How do these two characteristics fit together in human love relationships?

See Psalm 85:10; 89:14; 115:1; 138:2; Proverbs 3:3.
Compare Hosea 2:19-20

5) When God talks about His people, what words and phrases does He use? In other words, who are we to Him? How does this truth touch your thinking and heart?

See Deut.7:8; Zeph.3:17; Hosea 2:1,23 Rom.1:7; Col.3:12; I Thess.1:4; Jude 1

6) What is another though less obvious dimension of God's love for us? And how do we experience this in our lives? Talk about particular experiences when God loved you enough to be "tough" with you? What did you learn through the whole experience? What about in the future -- are you open to let God's love in whatever shape or form to enter your life? Or are you afraid?

See Proverbs 3:11-12; Heb.12:4-13; Rev.3:19
Compare I John 4:18

7) JESUS CHRIST is God's love come among men. What does this mean to you? In what ways did Jesus personally demonstrate God's true love as He lived and ministered among people? What does God's Word say about His death? What continuing influence does this truth have upon you even now?

See John 11:5,36; 13:1,23; 15:9,12; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7,20
John 3:16; Rom.5:8; 8:38-39; 1 John 4:9-10

8) What kind of responses did God's people give to God because of His amazing love? How significant and relevant are these to us today?

See Psalm 18:1; 116:1
Psalm 108:1-5; 138:1-3
Psalm 59:16; 89:1
Psalm 31:7
Psalm 25:6-7; 94:18

Spend some time right now responding in some of the things you've just read about.

Graham Roberts