Small Group Guide: QUESTIONS.WISDOM.THEOLOGY. - Why Would God Love Me?

Opening Question

What is a small childhood oops moment you can laugh about now - something you thought was a huge deal at the time?

Opening Prayer

God, thank You for bringing us together. Help us understand Your love more deeply - not just as something we know in our heads, but as something we trust in our hearts. Guide our conversation, help us encourage one another, and show us how to live more freely in Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

Our view of God affects our relationship with God. If we are unsure whether God truly loves us, we may struggle to trust Him, surrender to Him, or walk closely with Him.

There can be a gap between head knowledge and heart belief. We may know theologically that God loves us, but still struggle to live as if that is true.

God's love is not based on our perfection. We know our own weaknesses, failures, thoughts, and sins, but none of them surprise God or place us beyond His reach.

God sees and values each person. Even among billions of people and enormous world problems, Scripture shows that God notices us and knows us personally.

God is love. This does not mean love is God. Love is part of God's unchanging character, and His love is holy, just, active, and sacrificial.

God's love covers our sin and gives us significance. From the Garden of Eden to the cross of Jesus, God provides a covering for shame and anchors our worth in Christ.

Condemnation and conviction are different. Condemnation pushes us away from God with shame; conviction leads us back through confession, forgiveness, and restoration.

God loved us first. Because of Jesus, we do not have to wonder whether God loves us. His love has already been clearly demonstrated.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Dan said our view of God directly affects our relationship with God. What are some common ways a person's view of God might make it difficult to trust Him?
2. **Read 1 John 4:8-10.** What does this passage teach us about God's love? How is God's love more than a feeling?
3. Pastor Dan distinguished between saying God is love and saying love is God. Why is that distinction important?
4. **Read Genesis 3:10 and Genesis 3:21.** After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid because they were ashamed. How do people today still tend to hide when they feel guilt or shame?
5. **Read John 1:29 and 1 Peter 4:8.** How does Jesus ultimately cover our sin and shame? What does that reveal about God's heart toward us?
6. **Read Jeremiah 31:3.** God says, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love.' What makes everlasting love different from the conditional love people often experience?
7. Pastor Dan discussed the difference between condemnation and conviction. How can we learn to recognize the difference between the enemy's accusations and the Holy Spirit's loving correction?
8. **Read Romans 8:38-39.** What part of this passage is most encouraging? How might believing it more deeply change the way someone approaches God?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Identify one false belief about God's love.** Ask yourself whether you act as if God's love depends on your performance. Pray for God to replace that lie with truth.
2. **Memorize and meditate on Romans 8:38-39.** Repeat it during the week when you feel discouraged, insignificant, or distant from God.
3. **Practice confession instead of hiding.** When the Holy Spirit convicts you, respond promptly by confessing to God and receiving His forgiveness.
4. **Encourage someone who may feel unworthy or unseen.** Send a text, write a note, or have a conversation reminding that person of God's love.
5. **Live from significance, not for significance.** Notice where you may be trying to prove your worth, then remind yourself: My significance comes from Christ.

Memory Verse for This Week

> **Romans 8:38-39** - 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us first. Thank You that Your love is not based on our performance, our past, or our importance in the eyes of the world. Help us believe Your love not only in our minds but in our hearts. Teach us to stop hiding, receive Your forgiveness, and live with confidence in Christ. May others see Jesus through the way we live and love. In Jesus' name, amen.