

DISCUSSION GUIDE

4 Reasons to Love Jesus

The Gospel of Mark - Week 39

ICEBREAKER: Who has loved you more than anyone else in your life?

OVERVIEW: Love is the primary motivation for the Christian life. We obey, serve, give, and sacrifice for Jesus because we love Him. When we struggle to do those things, it means we have a love problem. That's why the greatest command is to love God. So how do we increase our love? Love requires knowledge of. As we learn more about Jesus and focus on His glory, our love will grow. In this discussion we will talk more about the glories of Christ and what we can do to love Him more and more.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Philippians 2:5-11.
 - a. List at least three facts about Jesus from this passage.
 - b. What does it mean that Jesus emptied Himself (v. 7)?
 - c. Is there anything in this passage that confuses you about Jesus or that tempts you to doubt?
 - d. What part of this passage most motivates you to treasure and delight in Christ?

3. Read Mark 8:22-26.
 - a. Why do you suppose Jesus brought the man out of the village?
 - b. In your opinion, why did the miracles happen in stages rather than instantly?
 - c. The sermon made four observations about Jesus from this story that should cause us to love Him. What were they? Can you find more?
4. The health of your walk with Christ depends on the depth of your love for Him. How can you measure the depth of your love for Jesus? Take a moment to measure your own love for Jesus. Is it as deep as you want it to be? Explain.
5. The sermon stated that "love requires knowledge of." In order to love Jesus, we must know Him. What is it about Jesus that makes you most love Him?
6. The key to increasing your love for Jesus is to increase your knowledge of Jesus and your focus on Jesus. How do the following practices help us to do this: Daily Bible reading; Praising Jesus in prayer; Worshiping Jesus in song.
7. Can you think of other ways to increase your knowledge of and focus on Jesus?
8. What do you personally need to do to increase your love for Jesus?

The Last Word: "Love for God is not essentially behavior but affection – not deeds but delight. God's glory becomes our supreme pleasure. We begin to prefer above all else to know him and see him and be with him and be like him." John Piper