

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Home Group Discussion Guide

HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU

Mark 15:1-39

ICEBREAKER: What has been your best work of art? Describe it.

OVERVIEW: To survive and thrive as a Christ-follower, we must have a deep understanding and strong belief in God's love for us. It impacts every arena of our lives. But how do we know how much God loves us? Where do we go to develop and nurture our trust in God's love? We look to the cross. In this discussion we will seek to deepen our trust and belief in God's love for us.

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. It's hard to talk about love unless we know what it is. Read Ephesians 5:25-29. With this passage as your reference point, define and describe what love is and does.
3. Read John 15:13. Why is the cross of Christ the best picture of how much God loves us?
4. Read Ephesians 3:17-19. Why is Paul convinced that believing in and understanding and experiencing God's love is the key to being made complete as a Christ-follower?

5. How does God's love impact your relationships (the way you treat others)?
6. Read Romans 8:35-37. This passage says that suffering doesn't mean that God no longer loves us. How do you reconcile these two biblical teachings: God loves you, and God allows you to suffer?
7. Read Psalm 63:1-8. Perhaps nobody believed in God's love more than King David. How fully are you experiencing God's love? Take the **LOVE TEST** to find out. On a scale of 1-10, (1 = low, 10 = high), rank yourself in the following areas.
 - How much of your life does God have control over? 63:1
 - How earnestly are you seeking God? 63:1
 - How passionate are you about your relationship with God? 63:1
 - How excited are you about God's love? 63:2-4
 - How satisfied are you in God? (To what degree are you seeking happiness in things and in other people?) 63:5
 - How often does your mind turn to God? (How God-conscious are you?) 63:6
 - How confident do you feel about God's protection and provision? 63:7-8
8. What can you do to grow in your trust and understanding of God's love?
9. According to Matthew 22:37-40, God wants you to respond to His love by loving Him and by loving others. What can you do to better love God? What can you do to better love others?

The Last Word: To be a strong Christ-follower you need to understand and trust in God's love for you. It impacts every arena of life. How can you know how much God loves you? Meditate on the cross of Jesus Christ. He was crucified in your place for your sins.