

Group Leader Guide-Sept 22

Sermon Recap

Pastor Alex emphasized the profound depth of God's love for us, as demonstrated by sending His Son, which serves as the foundation for our identity as believers. He urged the congregation to focus on being loved by Jesus rather than getting caught up in the distractions of doing things for God as a means of proving our worth. The sermon also highlighted the importance of resting in God's love and understanding that our relationship with Him is not transactional; we serve and obey out of gratitude for His unconditional love. Ultimately, Pastor Alex encouraged everyone to recognize and root themselves in the truth that Jesus loves us, which empowers us to live lives centered around Him.

Ice Breaker

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, but it had to be a food often used as a topping (like pizza toppings or burger toppings), what would you choose?

Discussion Questions

How can we remind ourselves daily that we are loved by Jesus, and why is that important for our spiritual journeys?

- Pastor Alex emphasized that recognizing and being rooted in God's love is crucial for following Jesus and experiencing peace.
- What are some practical ways you can incorporate reminders of Jesus' love into your daily life?

What does it mean to be loved by Jesus, according to John 15:9, where Jesus says, 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love'?

- Pastor Alex talked about how Jesus declared His love for us and encouraged us to stay grounded in that love.
- How can understanding Jesus' love for you change the way you interact with others?

Pastor Alex mentioned the importance of focusing on the 'unseen' aspects of growth, such as seeds growing in the ground. Why do you think we often celebrate the visible fruits of our faith and forget the unseen growth?

- This comes from the discussion about our tendency to focus on performance and accomplishments instead of the foundational love and growth happening inside us.
- In your own life, can you identify an 'unseen' area where you are growing spiritually? How can you nurture that growth?

What did Pastor Alex mean when he said that doing good works or serving should come from a place of being loved by God rather than trying to earn His love?

- He discussed the difference between serving for approval versus serving out of gratitude for Christ's love.
- Think about a time you felt pressured to do something good to gain approval. How can you shift your focus to serving out of love instead?

Pastor Alex shared the story of the older brother from the parable of the prodigal son. How can the older brother's experience remind us not to get lost in doing for God instead of being with Him?

- This story highlights how the older brother missed the joy of his father's love because he was focused on his own obedience instead of their relationship.
- How can you create more opportunities to just be in God's presence instead of just focusing on what you do for Him?

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for God's help in applying the lessons of His love to our lives this week.
- Ask for the strength to focus on Jesus rather than distractions in our daily lives.
- Pray for deeper understanding and experience of God's love as we serve and follow Him.