

Week 4:

The Joy of Being Loved



Questions

1. What illustration, story or scripture had the greatest impact on you this week?
2. When was a time you felt the most loved, safe, and able to be yourself?
3. Read John 15:11. What would a "complete joy" look like in your life?
4. Romans 5:8 says that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. What should that teach us about loving other people in our life?
5. Read Romans 12:10. Love doesn't mean always agreeing with or even liking a person, but it does mean honoring them. Who is someone you've struggled with loving? How can you honor them this week?
6. Pastor John mentions three steps of love. Which step do you struggle with the most? In which step do you need God's help to love others more deeply?
7. John 13:35 says that people will know we are Christians by our love. How would you rate yourself on the scale of love, and what can you do this week to improve the way you love others?

Scripture References

Read John 15:11-12, John 15:17, John 15:12, Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, Colossians 3:13, Romans 12:10, Acts 15:12, Acts 15:39, Galatians 2:11-21, John 13:34-35, Ephesians 4:29

Takeaways

- Think of a time when you felt the most loved, safe, known, embraced, and able to be yourself.
- In a world where our kids get bullied and hateful words have become the norm, how can we create a nest of unconditional love and safety for the people we love?
- Jesus commands me to love other believers – for my joy, their benefits, and to show the watching world the heart of God.
- To Live Your Most Joyful Life:
 - You must be attached to Jesus as your lifeblood. (John 15:5)
 - Discover the joy of answered prayer. (John 15:7)
 - Be fiercely loving toward Jesus' people (John 15:12,17)
 - There's a supernatural joy and healing that only exists with the love and life of Jesus' people.
- Three Steps in the Life of Love
 - Let God love you - wounds, imperfections and all.
 - Let God's people embrace you – as you are
 - Serve, love and speak highly of other believers

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- Don't expect perfection from Jesus' people but do expect and give the grace of Jesus.
(1 Colossians 3:13)
- Love doesn't always mean agreeing with or even liking a person, but it does mean honoring them. (Romans 12:10)
- Don't confuse lack of conflict with love. Real love includes healthy conflict. (Acts 15:12, Acts 15:39, Galatian 2:11-21)
- Love requires that we never gossip, slander or speak negatively about another believer. (Ephesians 4:29)
- Building the kind of community that Jesus describes takes perseverance, sacrifice, trust, grace and a whole lot of commitment over time.