

Five Stones

The Eradication of Rejection

Growing in our knowledge and experience of God's love eradicates rejection (John 10:10-14; Ephesians 3:17-19). All people battle with some sort of rejection, whether it is insecurity, inferiority, and a sense of low self-worth or performance, perfectionism, and succeeding at all costs. But to live out our destiny – to live abundantly as Jesus promised (John 10:10) – the giant of rejection and the fear of rejection must be slayed. The stone that defeats the giant of rejection is believing deep within that God loves us as a Good Shepherd, that He wants, desires, and pursues us with a jealous heart. Because David knew that God had such a heart for him, he was able to overcome rejection to confidently face and defeat Goliath and step fully into his destiny as the king of Israel.

GET THINGS STARTED

When it comes to issues of acceptance, approval, personal value, and rejection, social media plays a significant role. What are dangers of social media concerning acceptance and rejection? How can social media be enjoyed or used well apart from these dangers?

WATCH THE GROUP VIDEO FOR WEEK 3

GO DEEPER

1. What stood out or resonated with you from the video this week?
2. In *Goliath Must Fall* by Louie Giglio, he makes the point (pg. 102) that overcoming the giant of rejection requires that we live from acceptance, not for it. What do you think he means? What does it look like to live knowing we are already accepted and approved by our Heavenly Father?
3. In John 12:42-43, many of the Jewish leaders believed in Jesus but were afraid of the Pharisees and would not confess their faith. Why do you think these leaders loved the praise of men more than the praise of God? What might it cost us, and what might we gain, if we lived for the praise of God more than the praise of men?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How have you personally experienced rejection, or how has the fear of rejection impacted you? Because of that rejection or that fear, did you (or do you) tend to lean towards insecurity and inferiority, or towards performance and perfectionism? How has that rejection or fear shaped who you are and how you live?
2. How deeply do you know the love of God as a Good Shepherd? What keeps you from knowing and experiencing His love on greater levels (Ephesians 3:17-19)? What is the evidence in your life that you have a deep and growing knowledge of His love?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to intentionally ask God to help you know and experience His love on deeper levels. Ask Him to heal any rejection you have encountered personally. Ask Him to lead you to a place of freedom from any fear of rejection. Ask Him also to give you the same confidence that David had in the face of rejection (from his own father Jesse, from his brother Eliab, from King Saul, etc.) to boldly face and defeat Goliath. Ask Him to show you anything that may be hindering you from experiencing His extravagant, jealous love for you.

BLESS

One of the key elements of our BLESS approach to reaching people for Jesus in our spheres of influence is eating together. Who is someone in your circle that you could invite into your home for a meal or out to a restaurant, with the purpose of deepening relationship and demonstrating the love of God in a practical way?