

BECAUSE OF....

HIS LOVE

John 14:28-31

THE BIG IDEA: Why did Jesus go through the horror of the cross? There are several correct answers to this question. In this study, we will look at the love that motivated Him. Jesus' love for the Father. The Father's love for the lost. Jesus' love for you. And finally, the effect of this love in us.

OPENING: Share a point or thought from the sermon that you found personally meaningful. Can you share about a time when someone sacrificed significantly to do something for you because they loved you?

DIGGING DEEPER: Read either 1 Samuel 13:1-14 or 1 Samuel 15.

Did Saul believe he was obedient? What was Samuel's opinion? What emotion was moving Saul to take the actions he took? Contrast Saul to Jesus in John 14:28-31. How have you seen Christians deceive themselves like Saul? What actions have you taken that were motivated by fear? In a time of prayerful reflection, ask the Spirit of God to reveal to you how you have given partial obedience to the Lord. Reflect on what actions Jesus would have you take regarding what He shows you.

Read "The Parable of the Loving Father" in Luke 15:11-32. Identify the many ways that the father demonstrated love for his sons. What heartbreak did the father endure because of his son?

Read (slowly and aloud) 1 John 4:7-5:5. Identify 3 truths that stand out to you in this passage. What is meaningful about these to you? Identify passages that:

1. Point to God as the sole source of love
2. Speak to God's love for us
3. Talk about God living in us and us in God
4. What the result of all the above is in our lives

Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Reflect on what is said about power. About God's work and presence in us. About love. In your own words, describe the love Paul is referencing.

PUTTING IT TO WORK: Because God lives in us and we in God (1 John 4:16), the result is that we are in this world like Him (1 John 14:17). What would God have you do to be obedient to Jesus who commanded us to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (make your life difficult/miserable)?

PRAYER REQUESTS