



## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

The Heart of Christ: Love Actually

1 John 4:7-10; Romans 5:5-10

February 13 & 14, 2021

### **Part 1: Pray**

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to *experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power*. We want him to be at work by His Spirit, ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

### **Part 2: Read the Text**

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

### **Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon**

*Introduction*

1. We've spent the last seven weeks diving into the heart of Christ. Thinking about the sermon series as a whole, what are one or two of your biggest takeaways?
2. Has the "coin dropped" for you regarding God's love? If so, what was it that helped you to finally realize and experience his love?

*The Heart of Jesus: Defiant Love (Romans 5:8).*

1. In Romans 5, Paul makes clear that Christ died for us when we were *weak, sinners, and enemies* of God. No action on our part precipitates his saving of us. Why do you think this is so hard for us believe?
2. At one point Ray said, “you will not be any more secure in heaven than you are right now if you belong to Jesus.” Take a moment and reflect on this statement. Do you feel this security in your day-to-day life? How might believing this change how you live?
3. How is it that we can know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God loves us?

*The Heart of Jesus: Internalized Love (Romans 5:5b).*

1. Unfortunately, in some Christian circles, the Holy Spirit is somewhat neglected and forgotten, even though he is fully God. How do you typically view the Holy Spirit? How would you describe him and what he does?
2. When God looks at us, he applies to us the same words he spoke over Jesus at his Baptism: “This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.” Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that God is pleased with you?

*The Heart of Jesus: The Finishing Love (John 19:28, 30; 13:1).*

1. Ray gave several examples of believers who finished well (i.e. Kara Tippetts, Sam Miller). Who do you know that has finished well? What are some of the qualities they displayed that helped them run the race well until the end?

2. Jesus loved to the very end, walking to the edge of the cliff of love and jumping off. Are there places in your own life where God might be calling you to love without limit, to love even when it is costly?
  
3. In today's world, many people chafe against and reject the idea that the Triune God poured out all his wrath on Jesus. In light of this sermon, how would you respond to those who don't like this teaching? Why do you think it's important to believe that Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath? (Important note: because God is three-in-one, the Father and the Son act in concert. Jesus is not rescuing us from an angry Father. The Father sends the Son to save us because he loves us.)

**Part 4: Summarize the Message**

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?