



Sermon Discussion Guide

Love Walked Among Us: The Cost of Love

John 13:1; John 15:13; John 10:11-15

May 29 & 30, 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. While our culture delights in love and romance, true love is costly. How have you experienced this reality in your own life?

The Cost of Love: Rejection.

Luke 13:34; John 1:11

1. Throughout his life, Jesus experienced rejection after rejection, even by one of his most trusted friends. Where in your life have you experienced rejection? What comfort can we draw from the fact that Jesus was rejected too?

2. How does Jesus deal with rejection, and how does his response differ from how we typically respond (see Luke 13:34; Luke 19:41-44)? How do you personally respond to rejection?
3. Why do you think we struggle so much to let go of our rights when we are wronged? What is it that enables us to choose love instead of bitterness and anger when we experience rejection?

The Cost of Love: Exchange.

Mark 10:45; John 10:11; John 1:29

1. To be a Christian is to exchange our autonomy in order to be a part of God's family, because Jesus and his people matter more than our own safety and comfort. Have you made this exchange? Are there any places where you are clinging to your autonomy?
2. Without the shedding of blood, there is no removal of sin. In Jesus' day, the water of the Kidron River ran black with blood from the sheer quantity of sacrifices in the Temple that were performed daily for the sins of Israel. Take a moment and consider what this communicates about our sin and what it means for Jesus to be the Lamb of God.
3. Corrie Ten Boom, who suffered in a German concentration camp for hiding Jews, writes:

I had read a thousand times the story of Jesus' arrest—how soldiers slapped him, laughed at him, flogged him. Now such happenings had faces and voices.

We faced the recurrent humiliation of medical inspection.... [Naked, we] had to maintain our erect, hands-at-sides positions as we filed slowly passed a phalanx of grinning guards....

But it was one of these mornings while we were waiting, shivering in the quarter, that yet another page in the Bible leapt into life for me.

He hung naked on the cross.

I had not known — I had not thought.... The paintings, the carved crucifix showed at the least a scrap of cloth. But this, I suddenly knew, was the respect and reverence of the artist. But oh — at the cross — there had been no reverence. No more than I saw in the faces around us now.

I leaned toward Betsy, ahead of me in line. Her shoulder blade stood out sharp and thin beneath her blue-mottled skin.

“Betsy, they took His clothes too.”

Ahead of me I heard a little gasp. “Oh, Corrie. And I never thanked him.”

Take a minute and reflect on this quote. Jesus became naked so that we might be clothed in his robes. Have you considered this image before, or is it new to you, like it was to Corrie? What are some of the other exchanges Jesus makes for us?

4. Where in your life might God be asking you to make the exchange of love, to die to yourself, for the sake of another?

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?