



Leader Guide

For God So Loved

January 8, 2022

Main Passage: John 3:1-16; Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 8:35-39

Theological Theme

The love of God is powerful and overwhelming. He loved us while we were still separated from Him by our sin, and He promises nothing will come between Him and those who place their faith in Jesus.

Introduction

- Open class today by sharing one person who does not know Christ that you want to pray for this month.

1. For God So Loved (John 3:16)

One of the most well-known verses in all of Scripture starts with a statement about God's love. This verse might even be referred to as the gospel in a nutshell because it clearly explains the love of God for His people. Today, we are focusing on the beginning of this verse—the fact that it all starts with God and His great love for us. The gospel does not hinge on our behavior or who we are; it is based on God and who He is.

- What does it mean to you that God loves you in this way?
- Which aspect of agape love speaks to you the most? Why?
- How does the reminder that God loves the whole world resonate with you today?

2. Because of Who He Is (Ephesians 2:1-10)

This passage of Scripture gives us more insight into the love of God for the world Jesus spoke of in John 3:16. Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus, reminding them to never forget where they came from and that God's love for them was not dependent on their ability to fix themselves. Rather, God loved them while they were dead in their trespasses. In this, he painted a picture of what their lives looked like before they accepted Jesus.

- What value is there in remembering where you came from before you accepted Jesus?
- Where do you struggle to receive the love and mercy of God?
- Application: What is God calling you to do in response to the gift of grace you've been given?

3. Nothing Can Separate (Romans 8:35-39)

In our quest to better understand God's love, we look to another letter Paul wrote to the Romans. He stressed that nothing can separate believers from the love of God. In a world where things were often taken away, Paul reassured believers that they could fully embrace God's love without worry that it would leave.

❓ Who in your life needs to hear Romans 8:35-39?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).