

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. How would you define love?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Augustine of Hippo said, "The desire of every human heart is to experience a love that is transcendent." Agree or disagree?
3. According to Isaiah 9:6-7, what motivated God to send His only Son?
4. The word, "Zeal", in Hebrew means, "to become very red". It also means jealousy, a glowing fire, an intense desire, or a fervent flaming love.
 - a. How does this change your understanding of Isaiah 9:7?
 - b. Compare with Deuteronomy 4:24.
5. How is God's love that He has for us, different from the way we love each other?
6. According to John 14:15, how do we tell God, "I love you?"
7. According to Isaiah 59:15-17, what is wrapped around God?

8. What do you think about these questions from Brennan Manning?
 - a. “Do you believe that the God of Jesus loves you beyond worthiness and unworthiness, beyond fidelity and infidelity—that he loves you in the morning sun and in the evening rain—that he loves you when your intellect denies it, your emotions refuse it, your whole being rejects it?

 - b. Do you believe that God loves without condition or reservation and loves you this moment as you are and not as you should be?” (Talk about it!)

9. C.S. Lewis described a vulnerable love. We all have to make a decision about what kind of love we’re to extend to others. Is this difficult for you? Here’s what C.S. Lewis said, “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

Application

Below are the main points of the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- The zeal of the Lord is greater than anything you face in this world, and it’s fixed on you.
- The Zeal of the Lord is greater than your worries, anxiety, and stress. It’s an ocean that’s bigger than your perspective, and mightier than your fears.
- It’s the zeal of the Lord that says, “You are worth it.”
- The Zeal of the Lord will change the way you love others.
- God loves you with a vulnerable love. It’s in danger of being hurt, broken or betrayed; it just doesn’t know any other way to love you.