

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

FIRST LOVE

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7

Pastor George Clerie – May 31, 2015

Today's message was about staying connected to God in such a way that our affections and life reflect that the Living God, Our Father is our 1st Love over all else because He is unwilling to be 2nd best.

Pastor Clerie encouraged us that we are wonderfully designed by God to experience an incredible love that last forever!

MEMORY VERSES

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" John 4:24

DISCUSSION STARTERS

If God sat you down and said he was going to conduct an Annual Saint Performance Review or if he said he wanted to have a heart-to-heart about how he has been feeling about your true love for Him; share how you believe that conversation go? What do you think the Lord would share with you as His opportunities to improve or grow closer to Him.

STUDY QUESTIONS

READ the Scriptures from Sunday's Sermon:

Revelation 2:1-7

1. The Rock Church is a Do Something Church and the scripture says in James 2 that faith without works is dead. After reading Rev 2, what does Jesus say about our Christian working, laboring, persevering and being patient without His authentic love or balanced by our faith?
2. The word of God say, "keeping God's commandments are not burdensome" (John 5:3). Yet, when we become consumed by work we become tired or it appears that keeping the commandments are burdensome. Share how you changed that mode of thinking or behavior? What are some suggestions to get out of that mode of apathy?
3. In Rev 2:7, the word says we must hear the Spirit and overcome the temptation to become hypocrites or pervert the truth of God like the Nicolaitians. Believers are given the Holy Spirit to remain authentic; read John 14:26 and Romans 8:16; how is the Holy Spirit our help to remind us we are beloved of God, exhort us to keep Him first, and keep Jesus pleased with us?



5. We learned in Sunday's sermon that Jesus is passionate about His church. We can experience God, here and now. What will you put into practice to make sure you are always in awe of God and seek His face (presence) to learn more about the height, width, depth, length (ref: Eph 3:18) of Who He is?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

As believers it is not uncommon to become weary in service or just plain become consumed by "the work" of the church. Galatians 6:9 says not to grow weary in well doing.

1. Walk down memory lane back to a time when you were at your most high with your affections toward the Lord. Share with the group when that was and when/where you believe you had "fallen" (reference Rev 2v5). Likewise, share what you did to get back to a loving and affectionate connection with the Lord.

What did you feel (joy, peace, etc) when you first received a revelation of being His?

2. Pastor Clerie played a video Clip from the movie Fiddler on the Roof where a husband asked his wife, "Do you love me"? Her response included her many acts like cooking, cleaning, birthing and raising his children. During the True Lover series, we learned Jesus accepted the works of hospitality by Martha, but exclaimed that Mary did the most beneficial thing by being attentive in His presence, sitting at His feet.

Think back on an occasion when you made the choice to be like Martha and share a time when you made the choice of Mary. How did you feel and what was the impact of each?

3. Pastor Clerie asked, "Are you enjoying the things God enjoys"?

Pray for one another that the joy of the Lord is ever our strength.

TAKE IT HOME!

1. In prayer time with God, ask Him to reveal those areas that are keeping Him from being 1st in your life and ask Him to help you change with action. (Remember confession with your mouth is not repentance –repentance is an outward action of change)

2. Throughout the week allow time to reflect on or remember what the Lord has done for you and who you are in Him. You can reflect on Psalm 103 or your preferred devotion.

More Resources



All of Life as Worship

By John Piper - desiringGod.org

<https://www.rightnow.org/Training/Course/1061>

