

FAITH HEROES

“Whats love got to do with it?”

Getting Started

What was something that you absolutely loved growing up and could not let go?

On Sunday, Chad Mentioned his weird hair style that he had in High School. What was your weirdest season as far as style goes?

Did you go to a youth group growing up? What was your experience?

Going Deeper

Looking back at this week’s teaching on believing we are loved and loving others, was there anything that stuck out to you?

The big picture on Sunday was that, when it comes to character, love must be the foundation. Love is the foundation to all character. This mean we love God and we love others. However, before we can love others, we must first believe and that God loves us. As Chad pointed out, John called himself “The one whom Jesus loved.” What was a time in your life when you really understood that idea that Jesus does love you. In fact, He doesn’t just love you, He likes you.

Read [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

What are some things vying for your love?

This is a great scripture where we see the Father breaking through the skies to proclaim His love for the Son. However, why does Jesus need to be baptized? Isn’t He the Son of God that is without Sin?

Read the Message Version of [Matthew 3:13-17](#). The Message version is a paraphrase of the scriptures in modern language. It isn't the best bible for "study" but it is a great translation to give you a fresh picture of some of the scripture's

[Matthew 3:13-17 The Message \(MSG\)](#)

13-14 Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptized, not you!"

15 But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it.

16-17 The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."

Jesus gets baptized to identify with humanity. He is showing that He is both Divine and Human. He is in a sense, "Putting on the clothes of sinful humanity" to identify with us. After the baptism He would go out into the wilderness to be tempted by and beat the enemy. As the Message says, Jesus is "Putting things right" by getting baptized. He is implicitly saying, "I will take on your sin too." What is awesome, is that God then loves down on Jesus. He says, "This is my son in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus does not grow distant from us when we mess up and sin, in fact, He enters the Sin with us to help us battle it.

When your kids mess up how do you feel? What do you say?

When your kids mess up do you love them any less?

Sure there are natural consequences to our sin, but God's love does not deplete when we sin. I think sometimes we have always thought that sin "separates" us from God spatially. Almost like there is this huge gap and the more we sin the bigger that gap is but if we are good christians then the gap shrinks and we grow closer.

How have you thought of sin? Does it separate you from God? How were you brought up in regards to belief about sin and God?

Final Thought:

Heres the truth, when we sin, it can feel like we are separated from God. Is it possible that these feelings we get are more a hardening of our own hearts based on our own feelings?

Is it possible that God actually does not leave us nor forsake us?

Is it possible that God actually is with us in our sin and He wants to battle it with us?

I think the answer isyes.

Closing

How will what we learn affect your relationship with your kids if you have kids?

How will what we learn affect your relationship with your spouse if you have a spouse

How will what we learn affect your relationship with your friends if you have friends ;)

What is the biggest take away for you in small groups today?