

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: BELIEVE

Message: The Loyal Love of God

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Memory Verse: John 13:34-35 NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: The outpouring, loyal love of God is bestowed by faith in Jesus, not human efforts.

Read John 5:1-30

1. Jesus heals one man among many at the pool of Bethesda (v 5–9). Why do you think Jesus chose to heal this one man when so many others at the pool also needed healing? Do you ever wrestle with how or why God chooses to intervene in some situations but not others? Has this ever been a personal struggle or stumbling block in your faith? How would you respond to a nonbeliever who asks why God heals some but not others?
2. The invalid tells Jesus, "I have no one to help me into the pool" (v 7). Have you ever felt stuck or overlooked, like you needed help but no one noticed? Who in your life might be spiritually, emotionally, or physically stuck and in need of someone to "help them into the pool"? What does it look like to be the kind of person who notices and moves toward others with compassion?
3. The Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath law by healing (v 10–16). How does this passage challenge or expand your understanding of how legalism can interfere with compassion? Why were the religious leaders so focused on Jesus' apparent violation of the Sabbath law? What do their



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actions reveal about the condition of their hearts? Have you ever found yourself thinking or acting like a Pharisee? How did that affect your relationship with others and with God?

4. God is always at work (v 17). What encouragement do you find in knowing that God is always at work, even when we can't see it? Where might God be at work right now in your family, workplace, or community that you're being invited to notice and join?
5. Jesus says He can only do what He sees His Father doing (v 19). What does this tell us about the unity between the Father and the Son? What does the fact that Jesus emulates His Father tell us about our own faith walk? What are some things you've "seen" Jesus do that you want to better embody in your own walk?
6. Jesus shares that whoever does not honor Him does not honor God (v 23). Have you ever had a conversation with someone who says they believe in God but not in Jesus (e.g., agnostic)? How does this verse speak into that kind of belief? Why do you think honoring Jesus is essential to truly knowing and honoring God? What does it look like to "honor the Son" in everyday life?
7. Jesus says those who hear His word and believe have crossed over from death to life (v 24). Who in your life needs to hear this promise? What might it look like to share it with them? How do you see evidence of your life in Christ showing up in your attitudes, habits, or relationships?
8. Jesus does not seek to please Himself but God (v 30). In what areas of your life do you most struggle with selfishness (me first, my way)? If you were to change your focus to be on what brings God pleasure, do you think it would change the way you make decisions? If so, how?



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