



Life is _____. Leader Guide

Session 1: Life is to be loved by God.

Video Teaching

The following is a few key thoughts to note as you watch session 1. Use the space provided to jot down personal observations or applications.

Love is the major theme of this life and our existence. And not just any love, but God's love for you and for me. Our significance and our identity can be summed up in the word Love.

Life starts not with our love but with us being loved – with us discovering how much God loves us.

In John 3:16 we read "God so loved the world" (NIV). That includes the bad people. In fact, God is obsessed with evil, sinful, bad people. His love for us is passionate and even illogical. He loves us whether we recognize and reciprocate his love or not.

Love finds its maximum expressions in Jesus. Jesus died for us at the chance – at the mere possibility – that we would accept him. God gave Jesus to us with no strings attached and with no guarantees. This is how risky and ridiculous God's love for humanity is.

Life begins with us realizing the value we have before God. He is obsessed with us. He knows every detail and every nook and cranny of our lives.

The story of Hosea and Gomer in the Old Testament is one of the most beautiful and scandalous picture of what God has done for humanity. It illustrates his shocking, relentless love for you and for me. We already belong to God, yet he paid the to buy back what was already his – and the price he paid was the life of his son, Jesus.

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We find our value not in things, status and influence, but in the fact that the most powerful being in the universe is completely obsessed with us. He desires for all people to come to know him.

We have the privilege to tell people everywhere about the unconditional, relentless love of God for them.

Our journey during these next few week begins with us trying to figure out things using our own intellect, but with Jesus and God's love. It begins with the one who care about us at our best and at our worst.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever wondered what life is all about? What answers did you come up with? What answers have you heard from others?
2. How important is love to human beings? Why do you think it is so important?
3. Why is God's love for us more important than any other kind of love – including out love for him?
4. What does the phrase "God so loved the world" in John 3:16 tell us about God's love? How big is his love? Who does he love?
5. How is God's love different from the love we usually receive and give to each other here on earth?

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6. How does the fact that Jesus became a man show us that God is interested in our existence and in the details of our lives?
7. In the story of Hosea and Gomer, who does Hosea represent? Who does Gomer represent? What does this story tell us about God's love towards us?
8. When it comes to sharing Jesus with other people, what is the essence of our message? What do we tell them about his love?