

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 1/4/26

Summary

This sermon explored the profound truth that God loves to love us, as revealed through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Pastor Joel examined John 1:11, highlighting how Jesus came to His own people but was rejected, yet this rejection didn't stop God from pursuing a relationship with humanity. Unlike the temperamental gods of ancient mythology who punished those who rejected them, our God is motivated purely by love. The message emphasized that God's invitation to receive Him and believe in His name is not driven by fear of punishment, but by His abundant grace and desire for relationship. As we begin a new year, we're called to examine our motives - are we responding to God out of anxious fear or out of love for the God who loves us?

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this small group, we thank You for Your incredible love that pursues us even when we might reject You. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be vulnerable with one another and receptive to Your Spirit's leading. May we grow in our understanding of Your grace and truth, and may our time together

draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one gift you received as a child that you weren't initially excited about, but later came to appreciate?

Key Verses

John 1:11-12

John 1:14

John 3:16-17

Ephesians 1:3-8

Ephesians 1:13-14

Questions

1. Why do you think people in Jesus' time rejected Him when He came to His own people? What parallels do you see in today's world?
2. How does the concept of 'loss aversion' - being more afraid of potential pain than motivated by potential reward - show up in your own spiritual life?

3. Pastor Joel contrasted the temperamental gods of Greek mythology with our loving God. How does this difference change the way we approach God?
4. What does it mean to you personally that 'God loves to love us'? How does this truth impact your daily relationship with Him?
5. The sermon mentioned examining our motives - are we responding to God out of fear or out of love? Which tends to be your default, and why?
6. How can we better receive God's gift of love when we struggle with feelings of unworthiness or fear of not measuring up?
7. What does it look like practically to 'believe in His name and live in His grace and truth' in your everyday life?
8. As we begin a new year, how might understanding God's love for us change our goals, priorities, or approach to spiritual growth?

Life Application

This week, practice receiving God's love without trying to earn it. Each morning, remind yourself that God loves to love you, and approach your prayers, Bible reading, and daily decisions from this foundation of being beloved rather than from fear or

obligation. Notice when you slip into performance-based thinking and gently redirect yourself back to the truth of God's abundant grace.

Key Takeaways

- God faced rejection when He came to His own people, but this didn't stop Him from pursuing relationship with us.
- Unlike the temperamental gods of ancient mythology, our God is motivated purely by love, not anger or revenge.
- We are invited to receive God and believe in His name not out of fear of punishment, but because of His abundant grace.
- God loves to love us - this is the foundation of the Christian faith and our motivation for following Him.
- Perfect love leaves no room for fear, and we can approach God with confidence knowing we are His beloved children.

Ending Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for this time together and for the reminder that You love to love us. Help us to carry this truth with us throughout the week. When we face challenges, uncertainties, or moments of

doubt, remind us that we are Your beloved children, marked with the seal of Your Holy Spirit. Give us courage to live from this place of being loved rather than from fear or performance. May our lives be a reflection of Your grace and truth, and may others see Your love through us. As we begin this new year, we surrender our plans and dreams to You, trusting in Your goodness and faithfulness. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.