

2024 SPRING CONNECT GROUPS
'GET REAL' WEEK 9: GOD LOVES REAL PEOPLE
Week of June 2-June 8th

Introduction: The big idea: "God loves real people."

Summary: The first song many people learn in church is "Jesus loves me" and the first Bible verse we learn is often John 3:16 'For God so loved the world...', but it seems that as we get older, we receive the message that God's love comes with limits, conditions, and requirements; that God loves us when we're good or that we have to earn God's love.

This week we looked at three words that describe God's love toward 'real people'.

- 1. God's love is UNCONDITIONAL**
- 2. God's love is UNENDING**
- 3. God's love is UNFAILING**

In this message we looked at principles such as:

- God's unconditional love is called 'agape' love – the highest form of love.
- God's love is not like our love.
- True love is shown, and God showed us his love through the cross.
- God's love doesn't leave during hard times and is greater than our sins.
- Just as He did for Israel, God proves his love to us over and over again. This is God's 'Hesed' love

Scriptures to Explore:

- 1. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**
- 2. 1 John 4:17-18**
- 3. Psalm 136:1-4**

Discussion Questions:

1. What have been your ideas about God's love for you? Have you ever questioned His love or thought you had to earn it or deserve it?
2. We talked about two words in this message: Agape love, and Hesed love. Describe in your own words what these words mean, what mean to you, and how they differ from the worlds kind of love.
3. Read and discuss the various descriptions of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Also, how does the truth that 'love keeps no record of wrongs' (v. 5 NIV) help you to view God's love and life fre
4. Read 1 John 4:17-18, we often hear the phrase that 'perfect love casts our fear' but the context here is that fear has to do with God's judgment and punishment. How does it feel to know that God's love frees us from the fear of condemnation, judgment, and punishment?
5. Read Psalm 136:1-4, in this Psalm the writer recounts God's faithfulness in Israel's history with the repeated phrase "His love endures forever", How would you describe a love that endures and how does God's love endure in our lives.

Personal Application: Write down all of the characteristics of God's love that you can think about and find in scripture. List the reasons why you are thankful for God's love in your life.

Prayer