

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

F2022-WEEK 11

11/13/22

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- "The 3 Reasons We Love Our Pets So Much: They only know and breathe connection"

"We are born in relationships, wounded in relationships, and heal in relationships." — Harville Hendrix

When we tell our troubles and stressors to other humans, they usually start problem-solving when what we need most when is connection, understanding, and empathy. Most pets, especially most dogs, are not only naturally perfect at this but also genetically wired to provide this for us.

If you're reading this, the odds are you know how special it is to get home to a pet that had been waiting for you, literally all day. Our obsession with pets, I believe, reveals what we really want from human relationships; to feel deeply understood, valued, loved, important, and special unconditionally... (Linder, JN., Psychology Today, accessed 11/11/22, , <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/relationship-and-trauma-insights/2022/04/the-3-reasons-we-love-our-pets-so-much>)

- What are your thoughts on the excerpt of this article?

Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

- A. Read Isaiah 6:1-6. Imagine if you experienced what Isaiah experienced in this passage. Describe how you might think and feel. (Also read Revelation 4.)

1 It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. 2 Attending him were mighty

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

F2022-WEEK 11

11/13/22

seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" 4 Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. 5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. (Isaiah 6:1-6 NLT)

V 1–4: GOD'S GLORY Before Isaiah is called and commissioned to be a prophet, God gives him a glimpse of His wonderful glory and awesome holiness.

V 5–7: UNWORTHILY UNCLEAN The response, as always, when one understands something of the holiness of God, is that Isaiah sees himself as undone, unclean, and unworthy. Through a seraph touching his lips with a live coal, God demonstrates that Isaiah's iniquity is taken away and his sin is purged. He knows God's complete cleansing. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 11/10/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isa.+6%3A1-6&version=NLT>)

- B. Read Matthew 28:19. How do you describe or explain the trinity (a term not used in scripture)? What other verse(s) from scripture refer to or imply the trinity? (Hint: Genesis 1:26)

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19 NLT)

28:19 Go therefore. The Great Commission is given on Christ's authority. Since Christ's dominion is universal, the gospel must go to the whole world. This commandment is the primary reason for evangelism and missions.

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

F2022-WEEK 11

11/13/22

nations. The same Greek word often translated “Gentiles.” The great promise that in Abraham all the nations would be blessed (Gen. 12:3) is ready to be fulfilled.

baptizing them. See note 3:6. Those who become disciples are baptized in (lit. “into”) the triune name. There is one name (not “names”), and one baptism; Father, Son, and Spirit are one God. Disciples are baptized “in” this name because they belong to God, having been brought into the new covenant that expresses the will of the triune God. See theological note “The Sacraments.” (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 11/10/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mat.+28%3A19&version=NLT>)

- C. Read John 3:16-17, Romans 5:7-11, Colossians 1:21-22, Ephesians 3:18-19. Describe how God’s love transcends our understanding of love.

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17 NLT)

7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. (Romans 5:7-10 NLT)

21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

F2022-WEEK 11

11/13/22

blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. (Colossians 1:21-22 NLT)

18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:18-19 NLT)

- D. According to 1 John 3:16, how do we know what real love is? How should this knowledge affect our actions toward others? (Hint: What did he do for us?)

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. (1 Jn 3:16 NLT)

3:16 laid down his life. Christ accepted the painful death of the Cross so that we might be saved from eternal punishment (John 10:11). Our love for one another may not require such a costly decision as this, but there must be some decision and action. John mentions material assistance as one example (v. 17; James 1:27). (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 11/10/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Jn+3%3A16&version=NLT>)

- E. Read John 15:9-12. How do we remain in God's love? (Hint: He rewards us with the benefits of his love.)

9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

F2022-WEEK 11

11/13/22

so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. (John 15:9-12 NLT)

In the third section (vv.9-17), Jesus reaffirmed the importance and nature of love (cf. 14:15-24) and fruitbearing. The Father's love for Jesus was the model for Jesus' love of the disciples; his obedient love for the Father was to be the model for their love for him; his self-sacrificing love for them was to be the model of their love for each other. The initiative in all this was his. He chose them and not they him. His design was that they should bear fruit, and his command was that they should love each other (cf. 13:34-35). (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 11/10/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+15&version=NLT>)

2) Application:

What benefits do you think there may be in a detailed look into the love of God?

3) Prayer: As you pray, ask God for opportunities to demonstrate your love for him and others. Also ask him to reveal distractions in your life that are hindering you from giving all your love to him and others.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Eph. 3:18-19 NLT)