

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE

Matthew 22: 34-40

Message Reflection Guide

Ann Graham Lot wrote “If our kids always behave, and our boss is always pleased, and our home is always orderly, and our bodies always feel good, and we are patient and kind and thoughtful and happy and loving, others shrug because they’re capable of being that way too. On the other hand, If we have a splitting headache, the kids are screaming, the phone is ringing, the supper is burning, yet we are still patient, kind, thoughtful, happy, and loving, the world sits up and takes notice. The world knows that kind of behavior is not natural. It’s supernatural. And others see Jesus revealed in us.” This is one example of showing God’s audacious love to a divided world that desperately needs it. Other examples are focused on in questions 4, 5, 6. This sermon series over the next 2 months will be teaching us additional tips for showing audacious love

CONVERSATION STARTER

1. Share a time when you experienced feeling loved and valued by a family member. How about a time when you experienced love from a stranger?
2. Bob challenged us to love God by meditating on a picture of God in the Bible. Pick one of the 12 listed below and share why that description connects with you.

Adam knew God as a Creator

Eve knew Him as the original Homemaker

Noah knew as the Refuge from the storm

Abraham as a Friend

Moses as the Redeemer

Rahab as the gracious Savior

David as his Shepherd

Elijah as the Almighty

Daniel as the Lion tamer

Martha as the Promise Keeper

Mary Magdalene as the Bondage Breaker

Lazarus as the Resurrection and the Life

Bartimaeus as the Light of the World

John as the glorious King upon the throne

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

Psalms 139:4 says God is aware of our words even before we speak them.

Hebrews 4:13 says everything is laid bare before Him

Psalms 33:13-15 says God considers everything we do here on earth

That suggests we should be more open about our inner thoughts and failures. Why do we have such a hard time being “real” and vulnerable with God and others?

Bob said we show God’s love by really listening to others. What are some suggestions for improving our listening skills?

MAKING IT REAL

We show God’s love by speaking encouraging words to one another. Let’s practice doing that by speaking an encouraging word to the person to your right in the group. Some examples of encouragement in the Bible are:

God encouraged fearful Moses with power, wisdom & brother Aaron. (Exodus 3, 4)

Joshua encouraged Israelites ready to enter Promised Land “Be strong & of good courage” (Joshua 1:6)

Rahab hid & encouraged the spies saying, “We have heard of amazing things God has done.” (Joshua 2:3-14)

Isaiah 35:3,4 urges the people to strengthen the feeble hands, steady the shaky knees, encourage the fearful hearts

Jesus forgave & encouraged Peter even after he denied Him 3 times (John 22:1-15)

Barnabas testified to others that Paul had been truly converted (Acts 9:26-28)

Barnabas stands by deserter John Mark even though Paul had written him off (Acts 15:36-43)

We show love by praying for others. As you conclude community group tonight practice praying for a family member, a neighbor, a person on your BLESS list, a needy person (in a hospital or nursing home, or having health issues, a prisoner, someone who recently experienced grief, individuals who are facing persecution for their faith)