



THE WIN

Group members will demonstrate understanding of the depth of Jesus' love for the Christ-follower by analyzing a hymn and describing Jesus' love in one sentence.

3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

SAY THIS:

In the message this week we explored the power of the resurrection and the many facts that testify to its truthfulness and accuracy as a historical event. Jesus really died, his tomb was seen by many, Jesus reached out to his followers personally, and we are all left with a decision to believe the resurrection or not.

- What is 1 or 2 comments from this week's message that challenged you? Encouraged you? Left you with more questions?

5
minutes

WARM UP

When you consider all of the important historical moments the world has ever experienced, which would you have liked to witness? (i.e. Garden of Eden, the Alamo, MLK speech in Washington D.C., dedication of Solomon's temple, 1st American colony etc.)

When you think of the resurrection event, what emotions do you experience? Why those emotions?

SAY THIS:

The resurrection of Jesus is everything for the Christ-follower. However, at times it's easy to get distracted with the busyness of the world that we forget to live in the power of Jesus. He conquered death so we could have life. Each day is an opportunity for you and me to share the depth of love Jesus has for us.

30-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

Leader Tip: Keep in mind that Jesus did not say "Go finish curriculum!" He said, "make disciples." Take your time with this session and don't feel the need to finish. If you don't get through all of the material, that's okay. Focus on the ultimate goal of making disciples through this lesson.

ASK THIS:

- Describe a time in your life where you thought deeply about the depth of Jesus' love for you. What were the circumstances?

- What is the value for thinking deeply about the depth of Jesus' love for you?

In the mid-1800s Trevor Francis and Thomas Williams published a hymn articulating their perspective on the depth of the love of Jesus.

DO THIS ACTIVITY: There are 2 parts to this lesson

Part 1:

Divide into 3 groups and assign each group 1 section of the hymn. Each group is to read through their lyrics, answer the questions provided (these questions are meant to help better understand the lyrics and think through their meaning), and after 10-15 minutes be ready to summarize their section to the group.

Leader Tip: This activity can be impactful for many group members. Encourage them to really think deeply through their sections. Challenge group members who rush through to use their 'minds eye' and visualize the lyrics. This activity can help group members learn at a rapid rate, but be patient if you feel they are not ready.

Hymn: *Oh the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus* by Trevor Francis and Thomas Williams¹

Group 1

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
vast, unmeasured, boundless, free! (What images pop into your head? What is excluded from Jesus' love?)
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me! (What are some characteristics of an ocean that has rolling waves? Describe the scene)
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of thy love – (Where does the current of Jesus' love not travel in your life?)
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To that glorious rest above! (Notice the nature of Jesus' love. Is it static? How would you define it?)

Group 2

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus –
Spread his praise from shore to shore! (What emotion do you feel as you read these lines?)
How he loves us, ever loves us,
Changes never, nevermore! (What changes could the writer be referring to?)
How he watches o'er his loved ones, (How does this look day-to-day?)
Died to call them all his own; (How would you explain this to a non-believer)
How for them he's interceding,
Watching o'er them from the throne (What escapes his eye? What is his position if he's on the throne?)

Group 3

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, (What emotions are conjured when you think of a literal ocean?)
'tis a haven sweet of rest! (What does 'haven' mean?)
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus –
'tis heaven of heavens to me; (How can love be compared to 'heaven of heavens?')

¹ Thomas J. Williams and Samuel Trevor Francis, Hymn 796 Oh, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus, Public Domain.

and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee! (How does love lift you up to Jesus?)

(you can listen to the hymn on youtube at <https://youtu.be/9hzYKovRsJ8>)

Part 2:

ASK THIS:

- How was this experience for you? Challenging, helpful, boring, encouraging?

A defining characteristic in the hymn is Jesus' love is active in our life. Yet, the struggle to live in the love of Jesus is real.

- What is your greatest struggle daily to live in the love of Jesus? Why do you think that is?

As groups:

- 1) Look up and read the below verses to one another
- 2) Summarize each verse in a sentence
- 3) Record on scratch paper.
- 4) Have a member read the lyrics while the other group members review the sentence summaries from the Scripture references.

Group 1: Malachi 3:6, John 13:1, John 15:13, James 1:17

Group 2: Romans 5:8, Romans 8:34, Romans 11:33-36, 1 John 3:1-13

Group 3: Ephesians 3:14-19, Ephesians 5:16-19, Hebrews 7:25

(These are the Scripture verses Williams and Francis used to write *Oh, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*)

- How easy was it for you to see the Scriptures in the hymn?

Complete the following statement: The love Jesus has for me is _____.

5) As a group summarize the hymn into 1 paragraph (for an extra challenge try to summarize into 2-3 sentences).

6) Have someone write the summary down and commit to sending out via email, post of group fb group, group text etc. as an encouragement to live in the love of Jesus this week.

10
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

Spend approx. 10 minutes searching the web looking for other hymns that describes the love of God. Report back to the larger group how the hymn encourages, informs, or excites you.