



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.

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

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

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?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

- 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.

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.

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?')
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:

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

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

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.

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.



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.