

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE IN YOUR PERSONAL STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

Message Recap: While we took a look at our identity as a church over the past three weeks, a couple of themes kept coming up. As we prepare for baptisms this week, we'll look at the fact that Jesus loves sinners, so we should do the same. We love because He (Jesus) first loved us.

» Main Points

- Jesus loves sinners
- Jesus came to save the world

» Getting Started

- Did you ever have some that you didn't like? Why didn't you like them? Did your view of them ever change?
- Did you ever have someone that didn't like you? Why do you think they didn't like you?

» Observation

- Read and reflect on Matthew 9:9-13; 11:16-19; 28:16-20; John 3:16-17
- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

reachout

- Pay attention this week when you think you're better than someone else or when you think you're doing it right and they're doing it wrong. When this happens, try to recognize that they are people created in God's image, people he loves, people that Jesus died for.

growdeep

- What was your experience like when you first decided to follow Jesus?
- Are there places in your life where you are a little (or a lot) self-righteous? What are those places?
- Do you have people that are close to you but far from God? Who are they? Are you praying for them every day?
- 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because He (Jesus) first loved us. How does that make you feel? What does that make you do?"

partner with families

- Take some time this week to talk about what it means to be baptized, and ask your kids why someone would be baptized. Ask if they would ever want to get baptized and why?

» Next Steps and Prayer

- Find places this week to love and care for people you might have overlooked, ignored, or underserved.
- Close by praying that God would open your heart and mind to the people you may have overlooked and underserved. Ask that you would see them as he sees them and would have a renewed passion for reaching out and loving well.