



FIRST RESPONDERS SUNDAY

PASTOR BRIAN COLES
JUNE 1, 2025

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Faithful And True** (*New Life Worship*)
- **Same God** (*Elevation Worship*)
- **I Believe** (*Charity Gayle*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Romans 5:6-11

OPENING DISCUSSION

- Share a time when you needed emergency assistance. How did you feel in that moment?
- What qualities do you admire most about first responders?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. We are spiritually powerless without Christ.
2. God's love is demonstrated through Christ's death for us while we were still sinners.
3. We were not just helpless, but enemies of God before reconciliation.
4. God's timing in sending Christ was perfect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the image of being "powerless" relate to our spiritual condition without Christ? Can you think of examples from your own life?
2. Pastor Coles mentions that "getting saved might cause you to get cleaned up, but getting cleaned up doesn't get you saved." How does this challenge common misconceptions about salvation?
3. Discuss the difference between human love and God's love as described in the sermon. How does this impact your understanding of God's character?
4. How does the concept of justification ("just as if I never sinned") affect your view of your relationship with God?
5. The sermon talks about being God's enemies before reconciliation. How does this strong language impact your appreciation for what Christ has done?
6. How does the work of first responders help us better understand God's rescue mission for humanity?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. Write a thank-you note to a local first responder, expressing gratitude for their service and relating it to God's love.
2. Reflect on areas in your life where you might still be trying to "clean up" before coming to God. Practice surrendering these areas in prayer.
3. Share the gospel with someone this week, emphasizing God's love for us even when we were His enemies.
4. Look for opportunities to demonstrate unconditional love to others, especially those who may be difficult to love.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for His perfect timing and unconditional love in sending Christ. Pray for local first responders and for opportunities to share God's rescue mission with others.