

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What are three spring projects (of any kind) that you're either excited about, or dreading...and why?

1. When you consider how you interact with those around you, how often are those interactions a genuine reflection of God's love? (Read [John 3:16](#), [13:35](#), [1 Corinthians 13:13](#), [Galatians 5:6b](#), [5:22a](#) for a refresher on what God's love looks like.)
2. Take just a few minutes to contrast what decisions/actions based on God's love look like compared to those which are reflecting other things.
3. Pastor Tom gave us four key thoughts about God's love...which of these is the most challenging or surprising to you?
 - A. It isn't a human invention, but comes from God's nature, which is love ([1 John 4:7-8](#))
 - B. It is visible and a verb ([1 John 4:9](#))
 - C. It compels us to love ([2 Corinthians 5:14](#), [1 John 4:11](#))
 - D. God's love is the reality test, and makes our faith authentic; if we love God, we will love (choose the highest good for) one another ([1 John 4:12, 13, 16a](#))
4. If love is, as Pastor Tom says, "the pre-eminent virtue that makes our faith not a theory but a reality" what does that say about your faith? If you're willing, ask your group to share their perception of how real your faith is.
5. What does choosing the highest good for others to be in the center of God's will look like for you this week? How might this enable you to have a better idea of what to do in your next Now What? moment?

Day One: [John 9](#); [Psalm 77](#)

Day Four: [1 Timothy 4](#); [Jeremiah 11](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 27](#); [Proverbs 15](#)

Day Five: [Job 15](#); [Acts 21](#)

Day Three: [Hebrews 12](#); [1 Samuel 28](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



NOW WHAT?

"ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS"

Part 4

May 19, 2024

◆ Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH





"ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS" - Part 4

May 19, 2024

Pastor Tom Lundeen

We're in an important series about how all of us have to _____ important moments in our lives where we aren't sure what we should do...these are *Now What?* moments, and depending on what we do or don't do, these times will have significant impact in our lives and futures.

Let's quickly review the first 3 questions we've explored:

1. Will This Choice/Action Be Helpful?

And we unpacked 2 tests the Apostle Paul offers to us to guide our decisions:

- A. Will This Decision/Action Make Me a Better Person?
- B. Does This Decision/Action Control Me, or Do I Control It?

The second important question to ask ourselves is:

2. Does This Decision/Action Bother My Conscience?

The third question to ask ourselves is:

3. Does This Decision/Action Hurt Someone?

The fourth question to ask ourselves is:

4. Is This Decision/Action a _____ Reflection of God's Love?

- It's God's love that brought Jesus on His mission to _____ a lost world (note [John 3:16](#)).
- It's His love that _____ us as Jesus' disciples (note [John 13:35](#)).
- It's His love that is the supreme _____ on earth and in heaven (note [1 Corinthians 13:13](#)).
- It's His love that ultimately is the only thing that _____ (note [Galatians 5:6b](#)).
- It's His love that is the _____ of the Spirit (note [Galatians 5:22a](#)).

When God's love is genuinely reflected in our lives and relationships, we can have confidence that we are in the right place to receive God's guidance and that we're in the _____ of His will.

- A. God's love is not a human _____ (note [1 John 4:7b](#)) - love comes from God because God's _____ is love (note [1 John 4:8](#)).
- B. God's love is _____ - it's a _____ (action), not a noun (note [1 John 4:9](#)). The cross is the primary _____ of love. God's *free*, _____, and *spontaneous* (Stott) love becomes that which we respond to in return (note [1 John 4:10](#)).
- C. God's love _____ us to love (note [2 Corinthians 5:14a](#) and [1 John 4:11](#)).
- D. God's love is the _____ test - it's God's love that makes our faith _____ (note [1 John 4:12, 13, 16a](#)). *The _____ God, who was once revealed in His Son, is now revealed in His people if and when they love one another* (Stott). Note [1 John 4:16b-17](#) - *Love is as much a sign of _____ as is righteousness* (Stott). To claim to love the unseen God while not choosing for the highest good of others towards the visible images of God is a _____ that takes away the substance/meaning of the Christian faith (note [1 John 4:20](#)). God clearly tells us what _____ really looks like (note [Galatians 5:13-14](#)).

So now what?

- God's will for your life and mine is to become fully immersed and _____ in His love story (note [1 John 3:16a](#)).
- When we _____ our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit, God's love story becomes real in our lives (note [1 John 3:16b-18](#)).
- Love is the pre-eminent Christian virtue that makes our faith not a _____ but a reality.
- Love is the greatest of the 3 _____ graces (faith, hope, and love), and without it all we do or say doesn't matter.
- Every time we choose for the highest good of others (including God Himself), we will be right in the _____ of His will and much easier guided and directed by Him.
- Have you _____ God's love story for your own life?
- What do our _____...portray about the reality of God's love in our own lives?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP guide on the back



"ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS" - Part 4

May 19, 2024

Pastor Tom Lundeen

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So now what?

- God's will for your life and mine is to become fully immersed and participants in His love story (note [1 John 3:16a](#)).
- When we surrender our lives to the control of the Holy Spirit, God's love story becomes real in our lives (note [1 John 3:16b-18](#)).
- Love is the pre-eminent Christian virtue that makes our faith not a theory but a reality.
- Love is the greatest of the 3 eternal graces (faith, hope, and love), and without it all we do or say doesn't matter.
- Every time we choose for the highest good of others (including God Himself), we will be right in the center of His will and much easier guided and directed by Him.
- Have you embraced God's love story for your own life?
- What do our relationships...portray about the reality of God's love in our own lives?

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