

Awe: Awed by His Love

Exodus 34:6-7

1. When you think of "love" what comes to mind?
2. When you hear "God loves you" how does that hit you?
 - a. *What response to do you have to that statement?*
 - b. *What is something that gets in the way of you believing this is true?*
3. How would you define God's love? Consider 1 John 4:7-10 and Romans 5:8.
4. How is God's love different than how our culture conveys love? Give examples.
5. In the Bible, the shift in our circumstances, and our ability to make it through them, revolves around God's love. Think about the circumstances you find yourself in right now. How can you remind yourself of God's steadfast love in the middle of them? Consider the following:
 - a. The Cross – Romans 5:8 and John 3:16.
 - b. In Waiting and Hard Circumstances – Psalm 13:1-2 and 13:5, Psalm 69:1:8 and 69:13-16, and Lamentations 3:1-3 and 3:21-23.
 - c. The Power of God's Love – Romans 8:31-39
6. What is one step you can take this week to remind yourself that 'God loves you'?

Study Guide for Leaders

(some additional thoughts on the questions)

1. The Hebrew word for love is HESED

- a. Hesed means loyal love
- b. An unfailing kind of love, kindness, or goodness, often used of God's love that is related to faithfulness to His covenant

2. *The love of God goes beyond feeling and emotion to the core of who God is (God is love – 1 John 4:7-8). God's disposition is to love, to be self-giving, and good towards us. We don't have to do anything to earn God's love and God's love isn't triggered or activated by anything. He loves because He is love. It's who He is.*

3. Tim Keller on God's Love versus Cultural Love:

- *'Our culture says that feelings of love are the basis for actions of love. And of course that can be true. But it is truer to say that actions of love can lead consistently to feelings of love.'*
- *"Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws. Truth without love is harshness; it gives us information but in such a way that we cannot really hear it. God's saving love in Christ, however, is marked by both radical truthfulness about who we are and yet also radical, unconditional commitment to us."*

4. 1 John 4:10 uses the word 'propitiation.' Propitiation is a theological word that describes what Jesus accomplished on the Cross. When He died, the penalty of sin was cancelled, and the anger of God was averted. Jesus was the one who did this, He was the propitiation for our sin.