April 3, 2011

A love so crazy it pursues you.

God pursues us when we do not know him.

Genesis 12, Romans 5:8

God pursues an <u>ever-deepening</u> relationship with us when we receive him.

Matthew 22: 37, Proverbs 8:17

God pursues us when we ignore and forget him.

Hosea 3; John 15

Q: If God relentlessly pursues me, what does that make me? A: <u>invaluable</u>.

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with someone and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

Reflections on His Crazy Love for you.

Think of a time when you felt pursued in a good way. How did that make you feel about yourself?

If God is everything, and can choose to do whatever He wants and He chooses to relentlessly pursue you, to love you, to be with you...What does that make you?

REFLECTIONS TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR EASTER.

READ JOHN 9:1-41

With Jesus along the road:

This is the story of the Blind man. Jesus is confronted with bias that people had about good and bad, consequences of actions both personal and parental and justice and injustice. As you review the story and look at the discussion prompts, remember that Jesus never takes the easy way but always speaks to the heart things that are the deeper truths that are revealed.

Sometimes in this story it is easy to forget one life was broken and that one life was restored by Jesus. Discussion Prompts: use these questions to reflect on the encounter Jesus has with the blind man.

1. Do people still associate disease and disability with sin?

2. Why was it so hard for the Pharisees to accept the healing done by Jesus?

3. John 9:25 "I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

What does this simple and profound statement mean to you?

4. What sense of urgency do Jesus' comments "while it is day" (v4) instill in you? How can that sense change the way you currently do things?

Prayer for the week:

Pray that the pursuing love of God would deeply penetrate your heart.

Pray God would open your eyes to the immense value He places on you.

Pray for a spirit of worship to fill you and Real Life.

Pray for opportunity to invest and invite people who you want to see draw closer to God this Easter.

Additional reading related to John 9 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14