

THEO

week two
9.21.2011

intro: God is HUGE! He really is! As much as we talk about God and read our Bibles, sometimes we don't actually spend a lot of time thinking about God or getting to know Him. The word *theo* in latin literally means God, so the focus of our series is actually God. We will spend each week getting to know Him, His characteristics, attributes and His role in our lives.

week two: God, the basics (He is love!)

scripture:

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies (Psalm 36:5).

How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings (Psalm 36:7).

Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love (Psalm 48:9).

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever (Psalm 52:8).

But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness (Psalm 86:15).

Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever (Psalm 136:26).

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness" (Jeremiah 31:3).

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17).

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love (John 15:9).

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:2).

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-5).

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:9-10).

discussion

1. Spend some time again this week, checking in with students, having them introduce themselves to each other, etc. The "get to know you questions" will be in your binders on a separate page.

2. What did we learn about God last week? (God is HUGE!)

Pick and choose some of the verse listed above and read them or have students read them

3. What do these verses have in common? What are they all talking about?

4. What does it mean that God is love? Think beyond the Sunday School answers. Why is it important that God is love?

5. What is the difference between saying “God loves” and “God is love?”
6. God is love and God is in love with you. What difference does that make in your life?
7. Dan talked about the idea that when we get to heaven God is only going to ask us one question “Did you know how much I loved you?” What does this mean?
8. How can the fact that “God is love” affect your life this week? What one practical thing can be affected or changed by remembering that “God is love?”