

You Pick: Love Actually

Bottom Line: God loves us unconditionally. His love is not a reflection of the love the world shows us but a perfection of the love the world shows.

Message Overview:

Love is a popular four-letter word for us. In the same breath we say, I love my mom and I love my new boyfriend. I love my new girlfriend. I love my new Xbox. I love my new this or that, him or her. What does it really mean to love something? What is love actually? There are certain things our parents, friends, siblings do or say that expresses love and there are other things done or said that show the complete opposite. All of us have a tendency to love others under certain conditions. **The goal this week is to help our students see that God offers us a love without any conditions placed on us and be challenged with the understanding that God cannot love us any more or any less. God's love is a not a reflection of the love of this world but a perfection of the love of this world.** When we begin to believe and live in God's unconditional love, 4 things will happen to us: we become secure in who we are, we begin to treat others differently, we will feel a sense of freedom, and our mentality will change. It's so hard for us to understand God's unconditional love because it is unlike any other love we will ever experience- but it's there and it's real.

Scripture References: 1 John 4:8, John 3:16-17, Deuteronomy 7:7-8, Romans 8:38-39

Questions:

- 1.) What do you think about when you think about love? What people, actions, or stories go along with your picture of love?
- 2.) Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough to be loved? Have you ever felt like your performance just wasn't good enough? What was your attitude like? What happened?
- 3.) Are there things that you can do to make God love you more? Are there things you can do that would give God reason to love you less?
- 4.) How does it make you feel that you didn't do anything to "win" God's love and there is nothing you can do to "lose" it?
- 5.) What does it mean to say that God is love? How does God's love differ from human love?
- 6.) What do you think about Romans 8:38-39? *"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."*
- 7.) Describe some things that would change about your life if you knew without a doubt that God loves you unconditionally. *(What would change about your relationships, thought life, attitude?)*

The Next Step:

X: Discuss how different areas of you life will change by believing whole heartedly that God's love for you is unconditional. How will your perspective of God change? How will your response to God change?