

Love, Life, and Two Nails

- Jesus is alive because _____
 - The Father loves _____
 - He has loved the Son from _____ (John 17:24)
 - He loves the Son for _____ for lost sheep (John 10:14-17)
 - The Father loves _____
 - He loves us because we are _____ (Genesis 1:27; 1 John 4:8)
 - He loves us even though we are _____ (Romans 5:8)
- Jesus is alive to _____
 - He died and rose to rescue us from the _____ (Romans 5:8-9)
 - He died and rose to give us _____ (2 Corinthians 5:17, 14-15)
- Easter is about love and life.
 - 1 nail represents Jesus saying, "I've loved you by dying _____"
 - 1 nail represents Jesus saying, "Will you love me by dying _____"

My next step. Because of what Jesus has done for me and what I've heard today . . .

- I will turn to Jesus.** *It's time for me to surrender to the love of Jesus. I understand that I am a helpless sinner and that Jesus alone can forgive me, cleanse me, make me a beloved child of the Father, and give me new life.*
- I will return to Jesus.** *I've drifted from Him and it's time to come back. I confess that I have strayed, I ask for forgiveness, and recommit to following Jesus.*
- I will pick up the pace.** *I am not in a bad place, but I need to step up my commitment to Jesus. He has loved me, and I want to show my love by serving him in greater ways.*
- I will keep pressing on.** *I am thankful for where God has me and will continue to faithfully serve Him and reach out to others.*

Make It Real

1. How would you summarize what you learned in a sentence or two?
2. What point or verse did you find most helpful? Why?
3. What was something you didn't know or were reminded of?
4. What is a question you have?

Discussion questions from the message.

1. Read John 17:24. What does this teach us about the Father's love for Jesus? What does this tell us about what God was doing before he created anything? What is the significance of this in terms of understanding that "God IS love" (as opposed to "God loves")?
2. Read John 10:14-17. What does this teach us about Jesus? About us? About why the Father loves Jesus?
3. What is the clearest expression of God's love for us? (see John 3:16 and Romans 5:8-9) Why does Jesus love us even as sinners? (see Genesis 1:27, 1 John 4:8) What are the implications of this in terms of our response to those who are mean and nasty to us?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does this teach us about what God does for us when we trust Jesus (when we are "in Christ")? What are some of the old things that are gone in your life as a result of being new? What are some of the new things that have come since being a believer?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. What does this verse say is the controlling power in the believer's life? Why? Why does this passage say Jesus died and rose? What specific things in our lives should be impacted if we truly apply this?
6. What did the two nails from the message represent? Why are these helpful reminders?

Prayer prompts

Father, thank you that you are love. **I praise you for loving me by _____**
(consider the BIG and SMALL ways he shows and has shown you love)

God, help me to show my love for you by dying to myself when _____

Jesus, I pray that you would open the eyes and heart of _____ so that they will know, love, and live for you.