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GOD'S HOPE FOR  
*the rest of your life!*

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2017 | the year of  
**H·O·P·E**

# GOD'S HOPE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

## Study 1: Why am I Alive?

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh  
Cedar Grove Church | September 17, 2017



**WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS**

# LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

## Getting to Know One Another

- Introduce yourself, giving name, where you live, how long you've been attending Cedar Grove, and what/who brought you to the church?
- Share who it is in your life that you have felt most deeply loved by in the following groups?
  - Family Member
  - Friend
  - Coach, Teacher, Mentor

## Statements About God's Love

### Agree or Disagree?

1. **You cannot make God stop loving you! There is absolutely nothing that you can do! Agree OR Disagree**
2. **God will never love you any more than He loves you this very second nor will He love you any less than He does this second. Agree OR Disagree**
3. **Until you experience God's love in your heart, you are going to try to get that love from another person or thing, and it will never happen, you will spend your entire life trying and end up empty. Agree OR Disagree**
4. **To Discover Your Purpose, You Must First Experience His Love! Agree OR Disagree**

5. **God's love for you is the single most important truth on this planet!** Nothing will impact your life more than Knowing and personally experiencing God! **Agree OR Disagree**

## Key Biblical Facts on God's Love

*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*

- God's love is substantiated by the enormous gift He himself both **initiated** and **instituted**.

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. JOHN 3:17*

- God's love is not based on what we have **done**, **doing**, or will do?
- What role do we play in the script? We are called to **believe**!

*God demonstrates His own love towards us in the while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:8 NASB*

- God's action is demonstration of His **sacrificial love** towards you!

- An action initiated at the very point in time when you were most **unlovable**.

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ROMANS 8:35 NIV*

*37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 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 8:37-39 NIV*

**Q:** Why is it that so many of us struggle to truly experience God's love in our hearts?

## 1. REJECTION ISSUES

Rejection has to do with the People in our lives who have not accepted us, not welcomed us, not invited us, not approved of us, maybe even made fun of us and ask us to leave.

## 2. PERFECTION ISSUES

Doing things right, being the best, doing the best, no room for error, no margin for fault or failure. If you were raised in an environment or live in an environment like that then your best was never good enough.

### 3. ABANDONMENT ISSUES

Abandonment has to do with the people in your life whom you by nature dependent upon to provide you with the basic needs of love, affection, support, protection, provision, and security, who end up leaving you, either physically or emotionally.

### 4. FEAR ISSUES

We are talking about abnormal, inordinate and excessive fears.

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 JOHN 4:18 NIV*

### 5. INSECURITY ISSUES

Insecurity can result from simply having been constantly judged, criticized, or condemned.

*17...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. EPHESIANS 3:17-19 NIV*

When God's love **fills** you, it **heals** you!

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



**Note:** This would be best if done in pairs.

1. Issues, we all have them. Go through the five issues presented and order them 1-5 in terms of how they have impacted you in your life. Share the order.

2. **Expand**/explain how two of the issues have impacted you to the best of your ability.



**Note:** It would be great if you as the leader could share. If you could do this part as a whole group others could gain deeper insight into their own issues because of what they hear.

3. **Describe** ways you see that each of these issues could keep you from being able to experience the love of God in your heart?

4. **Write out** a paraphrase of John 3:16 and Romans 5:8 personalizing it and inserting your own name. When you finish read it out loud.



**Note:** By paraphrase we are talking about them putting the verse into their own words and using personal pronouns I/me/my where in place of plural nouns.

## PRAYER TIME



This is important so please leave enough time for this (7-10 min). It is both important and powerful for us to 'confess' in the presence of another. That confession is not always about sin or negativity. the idea is the first person would pray the first prayer and then their partner would pray the second prayer over them.

*Holy Spirit of God I am asking you to come and do a work in my broken soul. I am asking you to bring your healing love in to the place where feeling my feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ have been. I am asking you to heal the broken parts of me, so that the Fathers love will not leak out of me. I am asking you to mend those broken places and free me to fully experience the Fathers Love for me. I want to embrace the fact that God made me to LOVE ME! And I am asking you to help me understand and experience the full extent of your love.*

*Father I thank you for \_\_\_\_\_. I know that you created him/her simply to love him/her. I am praying right now the prayer of the Apostle Paul over \_\_\_\_\_ that He/she would fully and completely grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ! I claim your healing over his/her Soul in Jesus mighty name.*



