

# Georgetown Small Group Discussion Guide

April, 2017

(This is the final discussion guide for 2016-2017)

“He loves me. He loves me not?”

*“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!  
And that is what we are!”*

– 1 John 3:1

*“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his love for us.”*

– 1 John 3:16

1. We will never be able to truly love God, unless we understand and accept how much he loves us and what he has done for us. We might agree intellectually with this statement but deep down many Christians have trouble accepting God’s love for them. Why is that? What are the subtle ways this comes out in our lives?
2. Read Romans 3:20-25a. What is Paul saying in these verses? God’s love and acceptance of us has nothing to do with what we do for him. It has everything to do with what he has already done for us. Would you agree? Or is this an overstatement? Share your thoughts with your group.
3. Have there been times when God’s love and acceptance of you has been difficult to fully accept and embrace? If you are willing, please share with your group.
4. Have you ever gone through a season where you worked at doing all the right things but felt empty spiritually? Why was that? What can you learn from that experience?
5. You can try to please God and obey him without loving him, but you cannot love God without trying to please and serve him. In what ways have you struggled with this in your life?
6. We grow in our love for God only to the degree that we trust his love for us. What would it be like for you, if you could trust God’s love for you for everyday? How would things be different for you if you completely trusted God’s unconditional love and acceptance of you?
7. Share a time in your life when you experienced God’s love for you, not because of something you did for him, but because he simply loves you as his child. What brought about that realization? What was that like for you?
8. In what practical ways might you keep the reality of God’s love for you in the forefront of your mind and heart?
9. Read one of the crucifixion accounts in the gospels, noting together the indescribable lengths Christ went through because you are God’s beloved son or daughter. Share how the story of the cross has touched your life.
10. Pray for each other asking that you’ll learn to live in the joy and freedom of his unconditional love for you.