



Greater Things

Seek the Lost – Part 1

Study Guide

When we are acquainted with God, a love for others is a direct result. When comparison and complaints result in resentment, it is proof of our ignorance, misunderstanding, or rejection of God's love for us. Frustration with other people, their choices, and their waste of resources leaves us without passion to reach or love them. Here's how love works: God is love. Know Him and you will love others. He is the originator of love and is love personified.

1. Think of sibling relationships, whether yours or maybe one you have observed. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like the older brother? Have you ever felt cheated or wronged, in comparison to your sibling, by a parent or person in authority?
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“...Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf.”
- Luke 15:30 (ESV)

2. **Read Luke 15:25-32.** Recall and discuss possible reasons the older brother didn't go looking for or ask about his younger brother at any point in the story. How would he have “Stayed in the Story?”
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“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.”
- 1 John 4:7 (ESV)

3. **Read 1 John 4:7-8. This scripture describes what happens when we become acquainted with God and His love.** When we are hesitant to offer love to others, it might be because we don't feel loved by our Father. What does the passage say about those who love others and those who do not? How can we "Stay in the Story" as mentioned in this weekend's message?

4. **Read Luke 15:31 and 1 John 4:7.** Truly knowing how much God loves us gives us love for others. Do you know and understand that you are loved by God? How does this help you "Recognize Your Purpose?"

5. "Live with conviction" was the final challenge in this message. What does it mean to live with conviction or passion? How does this apply in your own life?