

SERMON QUESTIONS

Connected with Love

We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good and beautiful when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan (Romans 8:28, The Voice).

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. What does it mean to you, when you hear someone say, “God is Good” or what about “God is love?”
2. Melinda mentioned some different names of God. How many different names for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit can you come up with?

SERMON/BIBLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. God is Love. Read 1 John 4:7-21 and S.O.A.P. praying first and asking the Holy Spirit to guide you.
4. **Elohim**: God is Creator. What does this name mean to you, and how would you describe what He has done? What are some scripture references that you could use?
“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 40:28, ESV).
5. Read **Psalm 139:1-4** and discuss.
6. **El Roi**: God sees. Read **Genesis 16:7-16**. When is a time that you felt alone (like Hagar) or abandoned by God, thinking that He did not see what was going on?
“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” (Isaiah 49:15, NIV)
7. **Jehovah Shamma**: God is there. Read **Psalm 139:5, 7-10, 12** together. What do these verses mean to you? Do you have a story that you can share about feeling God’s presence when you least expected it but needed it? How did it comfort you?

How to stay connected to the One who is connecting our dots:

Reduce distractions. What are some ways to do this? Are you doing any of these already?

This can start small and simple. Maybe it just starts with fighting the impulse to pick up your phone every time you have a spare moment. Or choosing a Bible verse to meditate on when your mind starts spiraling into worry, anxiety and negativity.

Eat from the feast of God’s Word. What did Melinda mean by this?

Melinda mentioned that our tendency is to go to God's Word with an attitude of: "What can I get from this?" She stated that, It's the approach I took for years. But things began to change when I went to God's Word saying, "Lord, show me more of who You are." This is a prayer that He will not refuse and that will begin to change our hearts and perspectives. (The sheep know My voice. The sheep don't have to know where the Shepherd is leading. They just have to know His voice. By reading God's Word, we begin to be able to recognize His voice and heart more clearly as we walk out our days.)

Submit to God's authority.

(Your plan, God, not mine.) This is a choice to say, "I choose to trust You." Even though I don't understand what You're doing or why. It's when we say, "Lord, just show me how to walk through this moment, through this day."

Trust as He leads, step by Step.

We don't have to make everything happen. We don't have to be anxious. We just have to follow. As we take steps of trust, even when we can't see and don't understand, God will show Himself faithful. As He does that, we trust Him more and we experience more of His sweet and personal care. It makes our faith stronger and our love for Him deeper. It brings the knowledge we have His love from our head into our hearts.

8. What are some scripture references that Melinda gave or that you can think of that will help us stay connected to the One who is connecting our dots?

END IN PRAYER

Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things (Ecclesiastes 11:5, NLT).