

Through The Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, Laura Gardner.

Theme: This Is Love

Week 49 Small Group Bible Study & Sunday School Lesson

Open (Sharing our Own Stories & Getting To Know One Another)

1. What actions can make people feel loved? 2. What makes some people feel unlovable? How does this affect their behavior? 3. In what ways can the church reach out to people who do not feel loved or lovable?

Going Deeper Into God's Word Together

Read aloud Hosea 2.5-9, 14-20; Psalm 126.1-6; 1 John 4.7-12.

Hosea: 1. If Israel is symbolically the adulterous spouse, what has she done to her 'husband'? Why is adultery particularly painful to a spouse? 2. Do Christians sometimes fail to acknowledge the 'giver of all good gifts'? (vs. 8) Why? How can the gifts always be used in the ways God intends? 3. How does God treat his unfaithful people? What might be a Christian's response to an unfaithful partner?

Psalm: 1. Why is a joyful Christian a good witness to others? 2. What assurance do Christians have when they 'sow in tears'? 3. Why are believers sometimes surprised (vs. 1) when God shows his love for them?

1 John: 1. What are people lacking who act in unloving ways? What can 'turn them around'? 2. God's love is very sacrificial. What sacrifices are Christians sometimes called upon to make? 3. How can Christians make God's love visible to others?

Reflecting On What God Is Telling Us:

1. What makes you feel loved? _____ loving words _____ gifts _____ time together _____ acceptance _____ sacrifice.
2. How do you show love to those closest to you? Is it the way they need to feel loved?

Applying/Putting Into Practice What God's Told Us

What action can you take this week to show God's love to another?