

## 5 ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GOD AND WHY THEY ARE WRONG

### SESSION 7: FINAL THOUGHTS – KNOWING AND TRUSTING GOD



#### IN THIS SESSION

This Session will draw from previous Sessions to summarize what we have learned and offer some challenges and considerations for life application going forward.



#### KEY PASSAGES

**I John 4:7-12** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.<sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**Hosea 11:1-8** “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

<sup>2</sup> But the more they were called, the more they went away from me.

They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

<sup>3</sup> It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.

<sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

<sup>7</sup> My people are determined to turn from me.

Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

<sup>8</sup> “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?

My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.

**Ephesians 2:4-5; 3:18-19** “<sup>4</sup> Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ. . . .<sup>18</sup> grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> . . . know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.



#### DISCUSS

- In this final Session, Jeff mentioned three false assumptions:
  - God is constantly inspecting us.
  - God is disappointed with us.
  - God remains distant.

If you read the Bible with these assumptions or interpreted your life’s circumstances using them, what conclusions would you arrive at? Before we leave this exercise, ask yourself these questions:

- Where did this assumption come from?
- Is it true? Why do I think it is true? What if this assumption is false?

- If I discover the truth about God in this area, should I begin to build my life on it?
- How will it change my thinking, my worldview, and my life?
- Reread the verses from Hosea 11 and Ephesians 3:18-19 (see *Key Passages* above). Notice the struggle God has in raising the children of Israel and his heart in doing so—he always acts out of love and their best interest. As you look back at your life, recount the times God has used your circumstances, both good and bad, to open up opportunities to grow, increase your trust, and to find peace in the adventure of life.
- Jeff is consistently challenges us to reach out to people as God reaches out to us. I John 4 explains that we never really know God and understand his love for us until we love others. How we treat others actually reflects our assumptions about God!! “How I interact with God, and how I assume God views me is how I interact with and view people.” How do you view people and interact with them?
- What does Jeff mean when he says, “Try the sushi?” As we conclude, reflect on these thoughts: “God is for you. You are his child. He has a vision for you. God loves you and has your best interest in mind.”



#### **PRAY**

- Pray that God will open your eyes so the you may see his love at work in your life. Pray that you may find the peace that comes from knowing that God watches over you and walks with you through the journey of life. [Psalm 23.] Ask God to give you opportunities to see his love at work in your life – opportunities to interact and view people as God loves and interacts with you.