

“I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 2 study outline

We talked last week about being captivated by God’s love — the kind of love that can’t dive in fast enough, follow hard enough, get into the person’s presence fast enough. We talked about having a love like Peter did for Jesus — one that could say, “Yes, I love You and want to follow You — even if the path you have for me doesn’t look like my friend’s.”

But as we see in 1 John 4:19 — we love because He first loved us.

So before we can love Him with everything we have, it starts with His love for us.

- **Read Luke 15.** This chapter tells three parables of how God pursues His people. The third one is often called the Prodigal Son, but author Tim Keller points out in his book “The Prodigal God” that *prodigal* means to spend lavishly or extravagantly — and the point of the story is our Prodigal God. He loves us lavishly and extravagantly, no matter what we’ve done.
- **Read Revelation 21-22.** What kind of future do we see offered to the one who perseveres to the end? What kind of relationship with Christ is offered to us? What does it say about His love for us and what this future is worth if Christ was willing to give His life for us to have it? Is this future primarily fulfilled here on earth or in eternity? Is it more loving for God to give you this or to give you the life you want here?

Questions for discussion from IDWA chapter 2:

- Have you ever had that feeling — the Grand Canyon feeling that something’s missing? Do you lean into it or fill the space with noise? What are some of your distraction methods?
- Do you feel like God’s love is more a meal in your diet or the thing that stops the hunger in your life? Is this one of those seasons where you’re just full enough to get by? How much do you notice the gaping hunger in your life? Do you believe it can be filled? Is the hunger great enough that you’re willing to put your whole life on the line to seek the remedy?
- C.S. Lewis says pain is God’s megaphone straight into our hearts. Our hurt can be the greatest gift we’ve ever received, if we will let it say what God wants it to. Are we willing to feel it for what it is and let God speak?

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 that he pleaded with God three times to take away a thorn in his flesh, but God said His plan was for it to stay. That was better for Paul in the long run. But even with things not exactly how he wanted, Paul said in Philippians 4:11-13 that he had learned to be content in all things. *He was satisfied even when he was hungry, even when his desires weren’t met.*

Do you believe that if Revelation 21-22 is what we’re aiming toward — and if God’s story for you is the one where He can get you there in the best way possible — that your story is one written in love for you? That He’s pursuing you like the Father in Luke 15 — with abandon? That His love alone can be enough to satisfy you?