

1 Peter 1:8-9

1. LOVING SOMEONE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN

- a. Having not seen Jesus...
- b. ...we love Him

2. BELIEVING IN SOMEONE YOU DON'T SEE

- a. Not seeing Jesus today...
- b. ...we believe in Him...
- c. ...and rejoice in Him...
- d. ...because of the hope of our future salvation.

3. LOVE IN THE PRESENT TENSE

- a. Faith means more than nodding "yes"
- b. Pursuing joy in Jesus

1. What insight, principle, or observation from the message did you find most helpful, most challenging, or most troubling? Please explain.
2. Do you find it difficult to love someone you've never seen (namely Jesus)? Why or why not?
 - a. Is there any way that needing hope and faith (as we have not seen Him), has deepened your love for Jesus, and your anticipation for His coming?
 - b. Do you think not seeing Jesus until the last day will make that day all the more sweet and joyful? Why?
3. On Sunday we learned about the need for deep love for Jesus
 - a. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-13. Discuss this passage in light of Sunday's message
 - b. Why do you think love is greater than faith & hope?
 - c. Do you think this love Paul is writing about is only love for other Christians, or love also for Jesus Christ? Does verse 7 point to a love for Jesus & His coming?
 - d. Think of the connections between verse 7 & verse 13. How does love for Jesus & His appearing help to create hope, faith, and perseverance in us? How does this help explain why love is greater than hope & faith?
 - e. Now plug all of this in to Sunday's sermon. Should we think of love & faith as things that can be separate? Also use 1 Corinthians 13:2 to help you here.
4. If someone you knew did not feel love for/joy in Jesus, how would you give them advice on how to grow in that? How could you use the following verses to encourage them?
 - a. John 14:23-24
 - b. 1 John 2:15-16
 - c. John 15:9-11
 - d. Psalm 119:174
5. Read the following verses: Romans 14:17; 15:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:6.
 - a. Again, notice the connections between joy, faith, hope trust & love.
 - b. Where does this all ultimately come from?
6. Pray together that you would grow a love for Jesus through seeing Him in His Word, and that this would lead to persevering faith that is refined like gold at His coming.