

all i want for CHRISTMAS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 28TH

BIG IDEA: This week's message is called "All I want for Christmas". Every year Christmas season comes around and with it comes our tradition of giving and receiving gifts. But no matter how many gifts we receive we are left wanting "more". The bible tells us that inside of man's heart there is a void that only God can satisfy. Our strongest desire is really for Him. Whether we realize it or not, "all we want for Christmas" is really our God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Icebreaker: "What is the best thing you have ever gotten for Christmas, and did you ask for it beforehand?"

1. On Sunday, the speaker gave a message called "All I want for Christmas". Does anyone remember what he talked about?

On Sunday the focus of the message was discussing what the bible says about Christ being the greatest "want" inside of all of us, when we don't realize it.

2. Have someone look up and read Isaiah 26:8. Isaiah is speaking for a group of people not exactly following "wholeheartedly" after God. But in this verse he tells them and us something about the desire of our heart. What does he say?

Isaiah says that the desire of our 'hearts' or 'souls' all has to do with our God.

3. Why would it be important to remember that the greatest desire we have inside of us is really a desire for God?

If we forget that God alone can give us what we need, we might be tempted to go and try to meet our need elsewhere. Relationships, people, technology, money, our image... none of these things will ever be able to do what only God is able to do.

4. Have someone look up and read Romans 8:19-23. What does this verse tell us about our world and ourselves?

Paul writes and says that everything God created is not all it was intended to be because of the fall. Everything, including ourselves eagerly longs for him to return and restore things.

5. Have someone look up and read Psalm 42. David recognized that something inside of him thirsted or longed for God, he knew God was the only place he could "quench his thirst". Why is this so hard to remember?

Sometimes we think that things other than God might be able to satisfy the hunger inside of us even though our experience tells us they won't.

7. What are some of the things people chase after to fill in the emptiness in their lives? What are some of the things you run towards?

8. Lots of good things in our lives are just shadows of what we find in Christ. What are some of them?

In Christ we find the pleasure, intimacy, friendship, love, rest, value, security, and everything else that we run after and desire.

MEMORY VERSE: Isaiah 26:8

"...O LORD, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul."