



July 14 – Jesus is a Friend for Everyone

Who does God love? While most Christians would say “God loves all” – the way they live their lives says God loves some more than others. This has hurt the body of Christ in all kinds of ways and simply isn’t true. Jesus loves everyone...every.single.one. Join us this weekend and dive into the truth that this is great news for us!

Scripture:

Acts 16:9-15

That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” ¹⁰So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there. ¹¹We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis. ¹²From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days. ¹³On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. ¹⁴One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. ¹⁵She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. “If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home.” And she urged us until we agreed.

John 14:23-29

Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. ²⁶But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. ²⁷“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. ²⁸Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. ²⁹I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

Questions:

- Who in your life do you have a hard time believing “God is for”? What makes you say what you say?
- Who do you have trouble loving as God loves you? What makes it difficult to love?
- There is a quote that says: “I’d rather be excluded for who I include, than included for who I exclude.” Think about that. Does that resonate with you? How might this reflect God’s love for everyone?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: John 3:16

Tuesday: 1 John 4:7

Wednesday: Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Thursday: Psalm 41:1

Friday: Proverbs 14:31