

The Power of His Presence

I Contain God

Sunday, April 25th, 2021

1 John 4: 9-16 NIV

⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1. I am a Vessel

2 Corinthians 4: 6-7 God made His light shine in our hearts. We have this treasure in jars of clay to show the all-surpassing power is from God not us.
Isaiah 64:8 We are the clay, You are the potter.
John 7: 38-39 Whoever believes, river of living water will flow within them

2. I am a Temple

1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you; you are not your own.
Ephesians 2: 21-22 You are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives.
1 Peter 2:5 You like living stones are being built into a spiritual house

3. I am a Branch

John 15:4 No branch can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the vine.
John 15:5 I am the vine. You are the branches. Apart from me you can do nothing.
John 15:8 This is to My Father's glory that you bear much fruit.

Conclusion: We are joined to Another. We are not self-contained units. Let us acknowledge we are designed as a container to house our living God. Let us remain in Him knowing as a branch this is the only way to receive a continual source of life-giving sap from the vine.

Let us rejoice for Christ lives in and through us!

LIFE GROUP LESSON

I Contain God

Week of April 25 – May 1st, 2021

Ice Breaker: How do you view yourself? Are you self-contained? Are you filled by something or someone?

Read 1 John 4: 9-16.

1. How did God show His love for us? (v. 9)
2. What was and is God's intention in how we live? (v.9)
3. Do you feel you are living through Jesus? How so or why not?
4. Who loved who first? Us or God? (v. 10) What is love?
5. What are we called to do in return of God's love? (v.11)
6. What are we told about where God lives? (v.12)
7. How do we know God lives in us? (v.13)
8. Who does God dwell among? (v.15)
9. What are we to rely on in our life? (v.16)
10. How do you *practically* know and rely on the love God has for you?
11. In what ways are you applying this truth and command currently? In what ways could you apply this more?
12. Read 2 Corinthians 4: 6-7. What are we described as? Why? Who has power in our lives?
13. Do you believe this in all areas of your life? Or do you view yourself as self-contained and independent in certain areas? What drives your belief?
14. Read Isaiah 64:8. Who is God? Who are we? How do you respond to this truth? What does it mean for your life?
15. Read John 7: 38-39. As a vessel, what are we filled with as we believe in Jesus? What does that picture mean for you in your daily life?
16. Read 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20. What are our bodies? For whom to dwell in? Are we self-contained and independent beings?
17. Read John 15: 4-8. Who is Jesus? Who are we? What is the relationship between a branch and vine? Are we self-contained and independent beings? Who is our life source?
18. Are you designed to strive in your own strength and abilities? Are you to "try hard" to be good or overcome something? What are we designed for? How are we designed to live?

Point to ponder: Do you agree you are not a self-contained unit? Will you choose to live as the vessel you are to be filled by God through His Holy Spirit? Will you stop striving independently and tune to His flow that is within you that is all-powerful, all-wise and all-loving.