

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Sermon: The Greatest Love Story

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Small Group Study for Week of February 14th – 20th 2009

This week we read how the holiness of God is the very core and motivation for God's love. We studied how humanity with all our unholiness came to be so far from Gods original creation. We saw how we fell from our original place of Holy Communion with our Holy God, each other, and our world. And how did this happen? A Holy God that makes a creation that is able to think for itself will always have to face the possible cost. That is, that their creation could decide to move away from them. But what revealed the extent of Gods holiness is His response to our rebellion. "Where are you." This same God was prepared to do what it takes to reach his children and get us back. This is why Jesus came. To reveal God's nature and holiness through going all the way to get us back.

Read all of the following texts or just pick one and discuss it

Read Isaiah 53 (whole chapter); John 17:24-26; Romans 5:1-8

After some quiet meditation: Discuss what these texts mean in the following ways

- a. Personally: What is something that stands out to me in these texts?
 - b. As a Community: What is God saying to his people (as a community) in these passages?
 - c. How do I or we reveal our reaction to what God has done for us to others outside our church sphere? How do we show our love to others or is church just another responsibility we fulfil?
2. What is God trying to tell me tonight?

3. How am I going put this into practice?

These questions are focussed toward personal reflection and are intended to invite the group to let the Holy Spirit teach them through God's Word. Allowing God to move us by His presence and holiness is an essential part of being a child of God.