



MESSIAH & LOVE

Session 5: Messiah & Love

Small Group Guide

Warm up (activity to connect with the theme)

Share your favourite love story and why it's special to you. It may be a romantic film or book or TV series. What sort of messages around the theme of love does it portray? Have you ever been lost or needed to be rescued?

Message (summary video)

Watch the video by Andrew Ollerton that summarises the big theme from the Bible and its relevance to our lives

Scripture readings (for the group to read together)

Matthew 4.12–17; John 19.28–30; John 20.1–10

Discussion time

- What are your initial reactions to the film?
- What are some of the main differences between the way our culture defines love and the way God's love is revealed through Jesus?
- 'Messiah' means 'one who is anointed with oil', like a king. What is God's kingdom like if Jesus is the one who rules it? Think about the way he treated people, his teaching and healing ministry
- Read John 19.28–30. How would you respond to the question: 'If Jesus was so good, why did he die like a criminal?'
- The cross has become the globally recognised symbol of the Christian faith. How does this symbol of torture and execution reveal the extent of God's love for us?
- Read John 20.1–10. What piece of evidence for the resurrection do you find most compelling and why?
- What difference does it make if Jesus really rose again?
- Overall, how has this section on the Messiah helped make sense of life?

Response time (a reflection to lead into prayer time)

- Our human need for love is a positive desire. The Bible affirms it from start to finish. However, when we fail to direct this good desire toward its ultimate source, we fall for substitutes that let us down. Where have you found yourself falling for substitutes?
- Pause and reflect on John 3.16

Daily content

Continue the journey this week by reading the daily chapters of content and Scriptures in the series book by Andrew Ollerton, *The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life* (Hodder).



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MESSIAH
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