

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAN 17, 2021 // BREATHING UNDERWATER



## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in our *Breathing Underwater* series and asked us to consider one of the most important questions ever to be asked, "What do you believe?" Crossings is a place where people who don't know the answer to that question are invited and welcome to explore this question. Marty reminded us of the time before we believed, when our thoughts of who God is were unfocused, uninformed, or plain wrong. God tells us through his Word that we are not alone, he cares about us, and he knows about our troubles. God is a personal, intimate God. He not only gives us a description of himself, he softens our hearts to believe in him and gives us the power to trust in him. Society forms their opinions of Christians not by what is in the Bible, but by observing other Christians. If we understand what we believe about God and then reflect those truths to the rest of the world, they will associate these words to God and Christians: loving, forgiving, comforting, peacemaking, healing, unifying, welcoming, caring, nonjudgmental, humble, merciful, grace-filled, and more.

## SCRIPTURE

*Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:34-39*

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:19-20 NLT*

*One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." – Mark 12:28-31 NLT*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from Marty's message?
2. Read Romans 8:34-39. What do you learn about God's love for you? Be specific; observe each statement.
3. Do you struggle with believing any of the statements in these verses? If so, why?
4. How have you seen other people experience God's love as described? How have you experienced it?
5. Read Matthew 28:19-20. Before you can go and make disciples, you must become one yourself. What is the commission and the promise Jesus makes in these verses?
6. Read Mark 12:28-31. What are followers of Jesus commanded to do?
7. Review your list from question 2. If these statements are true for you, they are true for others. With that in mind, what does loving God and loving others look like for you?
8. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Pray to God thanking him for the ways he loves you and for his promises to never leave you. Acknowledge any times you have been selfish with those promises and haven't extended the truths to others by condemning, judging circumstances, etc. Admit the statements of his love you struggle with and ask him to help you believe. Ask God to reveal how to love him and love others passionately.