

-God of Light and Love-

There's something strange about the fact that we all have this intense desire to love and be loved, yet it can be difficult at times to give or receive love. Why is that? C.S. Lewis once said "creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists." What do you think will ultimately satisfy our desires? All across the globe, people who clinically die and then resuscitate come back to talk about a God of Light who satisfies the deepest cravings to be known, seen, accepted, and loved - like finally being home with ultimate belonging.

But who is this God of Light?

Ice-Breakers:

• Do you have a favorite song? Does it have to do with love? Why do you think so much music and art have to do with love and its meaning in our lives?

Questions:

- 1. What challenged you or stood out to you from the message? What got you excited, curious or confused? Share that with the group.
- 2. Think of something you've truly desired, that you haven't received.
 - How did that longing feel?
 - Can you imagine desiring God and heaven even more? Why or why not?
- 3. Is there someone you are at odds with in life? It might be hard to imagine how God could love them, but he does! He loves them just as he loves you. What are your thoughts about inviting God into this relationship?
- 4. Read John 8:12. We all experience trouble in life. Think of a time when your life felt particularly dark (maybe that's right now in the midst of this pandemic). Do you believe that God can lead you out of the darkness? Why or why not?
- 5. Read John 3:14-18.
 - How are you experiencing God's love in your life?
 - If God desires for us to reach our full potential as loving people created in his image, think of one (or more) behaviors of yours that might not be as loving as God intended. How could that action become more loving?
- 6. Is it hard to believe that God is the creator of every pleasure and every good gift you've ever experienced? Why or why not?

Application:

• This week, read Hebrews 2:14, 17–18 and Hebrews 4:15–16, and practice walking in God's grace and mercy.