

# Why?

## Week 2

DAILY THOUGHTS AND SMALL GROUP GUIDE  
BY: NIC COX

**Why?**  
**Week 2**  
**Day 1**

## **Read: John 3:16-17**

We are in the second week of our series called "Why?" where we've been looking at the reasons behind some of the things we do and believe here at CCC. This week we'll be looking at why we serve. This week we will be looking at the reasons behind why we serve, why we take our own time and energy and devote them to people and causes beyond ourselves. While individual reasons may vary, the core reason why we serve here at Community Christian Church is because of the love of God. It is because God first loved us that we serve and love others.

For God so loved . . .

Love has a strange effect on people. It makes people do things that they might not normally do. Men will find themselves at ballets, musicals, and other places where they would have never found themselves before. Women attend sporting events and car shows where they would have never set foot prior to this point. Love has a strange way of changing people.

For me a change that took place in the face of love was cleaning. I don't think I had ever cleaned a bathroom before I had met my wife. Yet, now I can be found (every now and then) scrubbing a shower and scouring the toilet. While I would have never taken free time to clean a shower or a toilet before, love has a way of changing the way we make decisions. Love can have a profound effect on people.

God also had his decisions effected by love, it seems. God sent his son to earth to save those who believe in him. This includes those of us who sometimes only half believe and find ourselves more rebellious than obedient. God sent his son to earth to save those of us who are too silly to know we need saving and those of us who forget what that saving cost. But why?

For God so loved . . .

God did not send his son to condemn the world, but to save it through him. This dark and broken world that would just as soon

spit on God than worship him, it is this world that God is saving. I doubt that anyone needs to be convinced that the world needs saving, just watching the evening news should be enough to prove that well. But there is a question that remains. Why would God send his only son to save a world as busted and depraved as this one?

For God so loved . . .

We not only recognize the world as broken, most see this same darkness and brokenness in our own bathroom mirrors. Our own lives are full of mistakes, of wrong paths and wrong choices. We find ourselves making decisions that we don't even understand ourselves, when we do the wrong we do not want to do and find ourselves ignoring the good that we wish to do. No one is immune to the corruption of this world, a corruption that we find deep within our own bones, our own lives. Why would God send his perfect son for people such as this, for people such as you and me?

For God so loved . . .

Love. It is all out of love. God, whose love is powerful and strong, breaks through all the darkness, cracks through all the evil, ruptures through all the sin to send his beloved son to the world. Love, bright and mighty and great, enters the world. It is a love that is divine. It is a love that is from God, is of God, and is God.

It is no wonder that we look for ways to turn around and give up our own lives to serve God and to serve others. It is a way of acknowledging the great love of God and making that love visible and tangible to others.

For God so loved . . .

**How are God's love and our service of others tied together?**

**Why?**

## Week 2

### Day 2

#### Read: 1 Corinthians 2:8-10

In order to understand why we serve, we must first understand the deep love God has for us. I was always a bit of a snoop when it came to Christmas time. It's not that I didn't enjoy a good surprise, just that I was always the curious type. And so every year as Christmas approached I would become the keenest of sleuths, rivaling even the great Sherlock Holmes (or all of the Hardy Boys put together!). I would peek in closets; sneak around in the darkness of night, and more or less make a nuisance of myself. Every year I would make mental predictions about what I would find, what wondrous gifts or what good things I would encounter. Under beds, on high shelves, in the basement, and in the garage, I would always find some of the presents. But, I would never find them all. Every year there would be something that I hadn't found and every year I would be surprised by something.

It's a strange thing that people often daydream about the very best and very worst things that can (but most likely won't) happen to them. Rarely do we daydream about the mundane things in life, about taking our sweaters to the drycleaners or going grocery shopping. But we may often find ourselves thinking about winning the lottery (even if we never buy tickets), throwing a touchdown pass in the super bowl (no matter our physical prowess), or rocking out to out hit single in front of a crowd of thousands (mostly in the car with the windows safely rolled up).

Just as every Christmas I would try to guess at all the presents that I would receive, we sometimes find ourselves daydreaming about the good things we wish we had or hoped to soon obtain. And I must say that we are able to dream up some pretty good stuff! Yet, God makes it clear that our wildest dreams and most fanciful wishes are absolutely nothing compared to the things that God has in store for those who love him.

No eye has seen what God has in store, and our eyes have seen some amazing things. Think of all the beautiful things there are to look at in this world. Think of a sunrise over the ocean, the brilliant greens of a forest, the cool white of a

full moon, the smile on the face of someone we love. No eye has seen what God has in store.

No ear has heard what God has in store, and our ears have heard sounds of wonder. Whether it is great works of music, the gentle whisper of a creek, or the laugh of a child, our ears have heard fantastic things. No ear has heard what God has in store.

No mind has conceived what God has in store, and our minds have thought of incredible things. Works of art and poetry, mathematics and science, our minds are capable of remarkable things. No mind has conceived what God has in store.

Now why would God store such things for those who love him?

Because God loved us first.

Because God loves us last.

Because God is Love.

**If God is love, how does that effect the way we think about others and serving them?**

**Why?  
Week 2  
Day 3**

**Read: Ephesians 5:1-2**

She walked into the living room where her young daughter was watching TV. "So," the mother began, the same conversation she had been revisiting for the past several weeks. "So," she began again, "what do you want to be for Halloween?"

The little girl heaved a sigh from the very bottom of her toes and threw a weary gaze at her mother. "You know," the little girl said very dramatically, "I've been thinking about that a lot lately. Everything that I come up with just doesn't seem, well, big enough." She shrugged her shoulders emphatically, adding physical punctuation to her sentence.

"Nothing's big enough?" the mother asked, trying to hide a smile behind her folded hands.

"That's right, nothing's big enough. I mean, I was thinking about animals, but none really seem to do the trick." The little girl rose from the couch, preparing to act out each of the proposed costumes. "I was thinking about an elephant, but while elephants are large in size they don't strike me as very smart." The little girl held her arm in front of her face and lifted it as an elephant trunk, but ended again with a shake of her head and a shrug. "I just don't think it's big enough. But I do have an idea of what I can be."

"You have an idea? What is it?" The mother was trying to swallow back her impatience.

"Well, I was thinking about being a doctor, which would be a lot of fun," the little girl began to pantomime listening to someone's heartbeat with a stethoscope, "but I'm not sure if it's big enough."

"Yes, I know you want to be something big," the mother added, "But what was the idea you had?"

"Well, I was thinking about being a *dinosaur*," the little girl said the word with a bit of growl as a flourish, "but they seem kinda, well . . . extinct."

"Yes, that is true, but what do you want to be?"

"I was thinking about being God," the little girl said with a note of casual finality.

"God?" the mother asked, taken aback and momentarily dumbfounded. "Why . . . how . . . you want to dress like God?"

"Yup." The little girl found this conclusion rather natural and also found her mother's confusion somewhat annoying. "Should be easy enough. I mean we're all trying to be like Him anyway, aren't we?"

"Well, I guess that's true but . . ." The mother ended her sentence with a shake of her head.

"Don't worry, mom. I'll explain it all on the way to the fabric store."

What would it look like if we were to dress up like God? What would it look like if we were to imitate God? What would we do, how would we act? It would look like love. It would look like the love of Jesus. And only as a child is able, we would throw ourselves fully into the imitation, wardrobe and all. As dear children, love like God loves, live a life that is marked and defined by love. Just as Jesus lived. Just as Jesus loved.

What it would look like to dress up like God? It would look like people loving and serving each other selflessly. We serve so we can more and more resemble God in our lives.

**What would it look like in your life if you more and more resembled God?**

**Why?  
Week 2  
Day 4**

**Read: Psalm 17:7-8**

We live in a world that admires great power. The people who find themselves with their faces printed on our money are people who were powerful. The people who lead teams to championships are powerful people. The CEO's of the world who guide and control corporations are powerful people. From military to economic to physical, we admire and praise people with great power.

We live in a world that admires great intellect. We prize people who are well educated. The people we look up to often have letters both before and after their names. We mock people for their lack of education, for slowness of speech or of thought. We admire people of great intellect.

We live in a world that admires great personality. We enjoy being entertained by people with a healthy sense of humor. We like to be around people who make us laugh. We want to be the sort of people who can 'work a room' or people who are savvy in

social situations. We want to be able to speak without hesitation, to be smooth and suave and charming. We admire people of great personality.

We live in a world that admires great attractiveness. The people on the covers of our magazines and on our TV shows are all people of great attractiveness. We desire to have flat stomachs, muscled bodies, tanned faces and white teeth. We will spend great time and money to gain such things. We admire people of great attractiveness.

This is the world we live in, a world that look up to those with power, intellect, personality and attractiveness. These are the sort of people who lead us, who entertain us, who we look up to and desire to be ourselves. It is easy to fall into the mindset that it is only these qualities that matter in our world, and they really do matter. Let us not be dishonest, these traits can make life a good bit easier, can make people react to us differently, can ease some of the troubles that will undoubtedly come. And these qualities are not evil or wrong. It is not wrong to be in a position of power, or to get a good education, or to have a winsome personality, or to be physically fit. These things are useful for our world.

But these characteristics are not the only things, either. And when we look at God we see that he is described as having great love. God is indeed powerful, being able to create all things and holding the power of the dawn in his palm. God is indeed intelligent, he is the author of all knowledge and wisdom.

Yet, above all of this, above everything else that God is, God is marked by his great love. His great love. We live in the shadow of the wonder of God's great love. And all the powerful, intelligent, charming and attractive people of the world live in the shadow of God's great love. And it makes all the difference.

While the world may be attracted to power, in God's economy it is love acting itself out in the service of others that counts. Its easy to get caught up in the idea that power is what matters in life, but in the end, it is how we express love in service of others that makes the difference.

**Why do you think it is so easy to focus on power and not on love and serving others?**

**Why?**  
**Week 2**  
**Day 5**

**Read: John 13: 1-17**

Washing feet is something that in our lives would take place in the shower or bath. It's not that washing our feet is a terribly personal thing, but it's certainly not a public event either. I mean, after all, it's feet. And feet are not the most glorious or beautiful parts of the human body. They tend to get covered with dirt and grim and perspiration and other nastiness. This is even more the case if you wear sandals or flip-flops.

Now imagine walking all day with sandals on dusty and dirty roads. It wouldn't take long to get you feet pretty nasty. Actually, foot washing was seen as so disgusting and below human standards that you were not even allowed to require your slave to perform the task. Foot washing was something that was fairly common to do once you entered a house, but normally water was offered for the guest to wash their own feet.

So this account of Jesus washing the feet of his followers is somewhat troubling. It might not seem so at first, but I think that this story is one of the more difficult ones to accept. I mean, we all want to think about God being powerful, capable, almighty, and he is. But there is normally very little room in our concepts of God for one who willingly and openly embarrasses himself. This is especially true when the embarrassment and humility comes at the benefit of those significantly lower than He is. Jesus, who is a perfect image of God on earth, takes off his outer cloak and adorned the clothing of a servant. He then took the water for washing, knelt, and began to wash the feet of his followers.

I can understand and identify with Simon Peter's reaction. You're going to wash my feet? My feet? I know what my feet are like and I also know the person that those feet are attached to. I'm not sure that's a very good idea. Maybe we should just move along and pretend this never happened.

But Jesus will have nothing of these excuses. The reason that Jesus seems so adamant about washing Simon Peter's feet is the same reason that Jesus washes their feet in the first place. Jesus kneels to wash his follower's feet to show the full extent of his love. Jesus also wants Simon Peter to know this love as well. It is a love that we are free to turn down, a love we can actively avoid if we so choose.

Yet, once we receive this love, once we receive this cleansing at the hands of the Lord Jesus, then we no longer have a choice. Not really. Once we have received the love of God, we are to carry that love off to others. We are to take on our own servants cloths, whatever forms those might take, and go out into our world, wherever that may be, and serve. Once we have received, we are to give. Once we have been served by God we are to become servants of others.

To show the full extend of his love, God serves in the most humble way possible. To show the full extend of our receiving God's love, we go and love also.

**As we carry the love of God with us, why should that make it easier to serve others?**

1. Why do you think that the question "why?" is so important to children, so important that they'll ask it over and over again?
2. In what ways are love and serving others tied together?
3. When have you done something you wouldn't have done otherwise because of love?

**Read: John 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 2:8-10, John 13:1-17**

4. In what ways do you think the love of God and our willingness to serve are tied together?
5. If God's very nature is to be love, how should this effect those who are following him serve?
6. In what way does Jesus' example of serving others display the love of God?
7. Is the love of God in evidence in your life because of how you are serving others? What can you do this week to make this more the case?



A COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH RESOURCE

8094 SANDPIPER CIRCLE, WHITE MARSH, MARYLAND 21236

[WWW.COMMUNITYCC.NET](http://WWW.COMMUNITYCC.NET)