

Wholehearted

Even Now

Jesus reveals His heart. He is the God of the broken heart. And Jesus reveals that He is the God who is willing to suffer for the sake of the one He loves. We are called to love Jesus... and to love like Jesus. This means being willing to suffer for the One we love as well. And in this suffering, God will be able to do something to us and do something through us that is only possible in darkness.

Discussion Questions

1. Can you remember the first time you thought you loved someone or something? Please share the experience.
 2. What is your initial response to the idea that love and suffering have an intrinsic connection? Is it something you immediately identify with or something that strikes you as foreign? Please explain.
 3. Jesus had his accusers then like He does now. Those who say, "If He *could* take away the pain, then He is evil if He doesn't". Have you wrestled with this before? If you've worked through it, what helped you to learn you can trust God?
 4. Jesus entered into darkness and allowed it to overwhelm Him so that He could conquer it...not to remove it but to transform it. Because of this, suffering has meaning and power. It has the power to purify our hearts and save the world. Please discuss this truth.
 5. Since love and darkness are so closely connected, does it make sense how one does not need to pursue radical penances? All they have to do is remain faithful to what is necessary in the darkness to enter more deeply into love. Please discuss with the group.
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God in Real Life

1. This week, respond with love in the darkness by saying to the God of the Broken Heart, "Even now I know you are holding me".
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To the Heart

"Lord...you know me: you know when I sit and stand; ...Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me. Where can I hide from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee? If I ascend to the heavens, you are there; if I lie down in Sheol, you are there too."
~ Psalm 139