

Because He Loves Me
How Christ Transforms Our Daily
Lives
Study Guide

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DVD Study Guide Introduction: How to Use this Study Guide

This Study Guide is meant as a companion to the 4 disc DVD series, “Because He Loves Me: How Christ Transforms Our Daily Life” by Elyse Fitzpatrick. It is meant to augment the study of the videos and should be accessible to each member of the audience while the videos are being viewed.

This study and the DVDs are meant as an Introduction and brief summary of “Because He Loves Me” (the book) and may be used in conjunction with the book, either before, during or after the study of it. The DVDs do not correlate exactly to the book although it will be easy for readers to see how the video presentation intersects with and enhances the study of the book, and vice versa. The first 3 videos, Sessions 1-9 of the study guide, expand the material taught in Part One of the book: How God’s Love Transforms Our Identity; while sections 10-12 of disc 4 will shed light on Part Two: How God’s Love Transforms Our Life.

Each session has a set of discussion questions that will enable viewers to begin to consider the material before the video actually starts. Take time to consider questions and new insights of the group before you begin the video.

The study may be used by an individual or in a group setting. Although these four presentations are each approximately one hour in length, you may choose to stop the video at the point indicated in this study guide. If you do so, you’ll end up with 12 approximately twenty minute viewings with questions for each. The time to stop will not be indicated in the video itself, so you’ll need to watch the time counter on your DVD player and stop the DVD then. Or, the DVDs may, of course, be viewed in one hour segments. Feel free to craft these sessions and your study of this material as best suits you and your group.

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Session 1

What Have You Forgotten?

Before you begin to watch the DVD take a few moments to consider:

- * *What questions do you have about God's love for you?*
- * *What do you hope to learn in this study?*
- * *Why have you decided to spend time in this study?*
- * *Formulate a short prayer about your aspirations for this study:*

[Begin Disc 1]

- * How much do you think about God's love for you?
- * How does the love God has for you in Christ impact your daily life?
- * Would you say that you are thrilled about God's love?

* What do the following verses have to say about the importance of our attitude about God's love?

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge... For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.” 2 Peter 1:5, 9

* How does a serious consideration of God's love change how you view Scripture?

- When you read the passage above where is your emphasis? “Make every effort” or “You’ve been cleansed from sin”?
- Do you key in on what you think you’re supposed to be doing rather than on what Christ has already done? Do you gloss over or assume that you’ve thought enough about God’s love for you?

* Do you see the need for going back to the first truths you learned about Christ? Is the gospel the foundation and motivation for all you do? Elyse asks, “In your pursuit of godliness have you left Jesus behind?”

* Where is your attention primarily focused?

- On your desires?
- On your sins?
- On your Savior?

* Does the thought of the crucifixion produce condemnation or joy in your heart?

* Elyse is teaching us that the truth of the gospel is meant for every day. What does this mean? For instance, what does the resurrection mean in the situations you face every day?

[End video at 18:20]

For Group Discussion: Why does the gospel matter to you today?

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Session 2

Are You Still Amazed by Grace?

Before you begin to watch the DVD take a few moments to consider:

- * *What questions do you have about God's love for you?*
- * *What questions do you have about the material you viewed last time?*
- * *What new insights are you beginning to see?*
- * *Formulate a short prayer about your aspirations for this study:*

[Begin Video at 18:20]

* Has your Christianity morphed into something other than a continual celebration of the gospel? What has changed?

- Does the incarnation still amaze you?
- How does Christ's perfect sinlessness impact you?
- Do remember His sinless record or your sinful record more?
- Do you spend time considering Calvary? When? How?

*The Father turned His back on His Beloved Son
and poured out Wrath on Him for you.*

- How often do you consider this great act of love?

* After the resurrection, Mary thinks she's going to help Jesus. Instead he speaks her name and brings her new life. How does this change your perspective on serving Him?

* Jesus ascended in bodily form. How does His ascension affect you today?

* Sometimes we're tempted to say, "God, what have you done for me?" in an accusatory way. How does the gospel transform that question into worship?

* Elyse asks whether we're suffering from a form of spiritual amnesia. What does this mean? Why would it matter?

* What's the difference between living under WDJD and WWJD?

* How many times have you recited John 3:16 without really thinking about what it means? Do you assume that you "get it" already?

"My identity is that I'm one who has been loved immeasurably by God and have been made one with Him."

* *Is this how you view yourself?*

* *What does God's love mean to you when you sin?*

"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins." 2 Peter 1:5-9

** The passage above seems to furnish us with a nice list of things to do. Why do we prefer to focus on the list? Elyse suggests two reasons:*

- We don't think deeply about the love of God in Christ because we assume we already know it.
- Pride has convinced us that we're able to obey if we just had the right list.
- Which one of these two reasons resonates with you?

* Peter tells us that one reason we don't grow is because we've forgotten that we've been cleansed from our former sins. We've got amnesia about who we really are. How might forgetting what we are, cleansed beloved children, shackle us to yesterday's failures?

* Does your Christianity feel like rest to you? If not, what does it feel like?

* "Love for God and faith in God are the only proper motivations for obedience." Respond.

[End video at 39:20]

For Group Discussion: How have you fallen into spiritual amnesia?

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Session 3

Growing in Grace

Before you begin to watch the DVD take a few moments to consider:

- * *What questions do you have about your new identity in Christ?*
- * *What questions do you have about the material you viewed last time?*
- * *What new insights are you beginning to see?*
- * *Formulate a short prayer about your aspirations for this study:*

[Begin video at 39:20]

Elyse begins this portion of the study by looking at how remembering our true identity transforms us in all the ways that Peter mentions in the following verses:

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.” 2 Peter 1:5-9

* How does remembering the gospel grow our faith? How does remembering our failures thwart that growth?

* How does remembering the gospel cause us to grow in virtue? Elyse says, "Our hearts are hungry for idols because we haven't spent enough time with the Lover of our soul." Respond.

* How does remembering the gospel grow our knowledge of Christ?

* How does remembering the gospel grow our steadfastness?

* How does remembering the gospel grow our godliness?

* How does remembering the gospel grow our brotherly affection?

* How does remembering the gospel grow our love?

- Our love for God is responsive in nature. How does the gospel help us love more?

* Christianity is not a program for nice people who want to be better. What is it?

[End of Disc 1]

For Group Discussion: What is your prayer as you hear these things? How would you rate the depth of your love for God? What will make it grow?

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