

MARINERS CHURCH



Letting Yourself Be Loved

8.22.21

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 1 John 4:10-11 (NIV)

We were designed to love and be loved.

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame. Genesis 2:18, 25

We become good at hiding from love.

"You can be like God." Genesis 3:4

We fear what we need most.

They suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid... so I hid." Genesis 3:7, 10

"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." –Jesus, John 17:21

There is always for hope for us in hiding.

Establish a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. Perfect love drives out all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.



We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:16-19 (NIV)

Grow relationships with safe people.

#1 Grace #2 Truth #3 Time

Become part of a family of people committed to Jesus and each other.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

The goal is not to tear away my defenses, but to make my defenses unnecessary.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup*

Read Genesis 2:18. If Adam had God and dog (and cats), why did he need Eve? Wasn't God enough? Why do you think God doesn't like "aloneness"?

Why do you think some people hide from being loved by others? Talk about a time when you may have hidden. Why did you do it? What was the result?

Read 1 John 4:16-19. What does it mean when it says, "As we live in God, our love becomes more perfect"? How does a growing relationship with Jesus free us to be loved by others?

In your experience, does a church family help or hinder a person who has been hiding from love? How can we find and help people that are 'hiding' from love?

Pray for each other!

*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with Pastor Len at len@marinerscc.org