

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Series: It's What We Do

Sermon: Love Moves

Speaker: Jeff Bogue

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OVERVIEW

Series Summary: Love is not just a feeling. Real love involves action—it takes grit and is often messy. It's what we do to care for the people around us, which ripples out into our communities, and even across the globe. *It's What We Do* is an exciting, month-long initiative, discovering what it means to live from a place of radical love. Starting Easter weekend and for the next 35 days, we'll engage inspiring weekend messages, daily challenges, and simple spiritual practices to help us experience God's radical love and put it into action. In this series, *It's What We Do*, we want to come out on the other side with a fresh perspective on how love can be what you do every day.

Main Insight: Those who ask for and receive the gift of salvation walk through the torn curtain to be with God.

Memory Verse: Matthew 27:51a

Key Scriptures:

- *Romans 5:8* – God Demonstrates His Love, While We Were Sinners
- *Matthew 27:45-51* – The Curtain Was Torn
- *Romans 3:23* – All Have Sinned and Fall Short
- *John 10:18* – Jesus Lays Down His Life and Take It Up Again
- *Ephesians 2:1-9* – Raised from the Dead with Jesus

GROUP DISCUSSION



Spend some time before talking about the What We Do Challenges

*Are people doing it? What are they learning? How are they growing?
Are there challenges we would like to do together as a group?*

Stay connected to the challenges at bath.graceohio.org/whatwedo

Leaders can access digital resources at <http://bit.ly/2FT983c>

ALL HAVE SINNED

- **How would you describe sin? How does culture view sin?**
- **What are some common ways people try to deal with their sin?**
- **Why is our understanding of sin essential to our faith?** (it determines how we relate to God)
- **How does God describe the sin condition of all people?** (Romans 3:23; 5:8; Ephesians 2:1-3)

Sin is any way we think, act or are motivated that is not exactly like God. Sin causes humanity to fear God, rebel against God, and reject God. Therefore, sin requires distance between the imperfection of humanity and the perfection of God. In the Old Testament, the curtain of the Holy of Holies separated God from the sins of the people. But Jesus came to lay down his life as a payment for our sin. He rose again to life to prove that he was God and that the barrier between God's perfection was now removed.

THE CURTAIN WAS TORN

- Read Ephesians 2:1-9. **How do we now experience God in Christ (despite our sin)?**
 - What keeps us from experiencing God the way we should (and can)?
 - How have you been conditioned to stay in spiritually dead boundaries?
 - Christ wants to set us free from being tied to guilt, regrets, and failures. What is one step you can take this week toward the freedom in life he offers?
- **Why can the grace and mercy of God be uncomfortable?** (It means admitting we need God's help. It means admitting we are wrong and continually do wrong. It means admitting that we DON'T get what we do deserve, and that we DO get what we don't deserve.)
- **How has the grace and mercy of God impacted your life personally?**
- Read 2 Cor 5:14-15. **What does Christ's love compel us to do (especially for others)?**

Those who ask for and receive the gift of salvation walk through the torn curtain. We do not diminish the problem of our sin, but instead increase the weight of God's grace and mercy on us through Christ. Jesus has created a way for us to join him in life on the "other side of the curtain."

Landing Point: We should become recipients of resurrection and proclaimers of the resurrection.