

Group/Individual Study

Series - "Love Does": "Love Embraces Orphans"

Passages: John 14:18, Psalm 68:5, James 1:27, Psalm 82:3-4, Isaiah 1:17

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 4/29

1. Read John 14:18. Jesus was in the last week of His earthly life when He spoke these words and wouldn't be physically with His disciples much longer. How does Jesus keep this promise? What does it mean to you that you are never alone?
2. Read Psalm 68:5. What do you think it is about God's character that causes Him to defend the fatherless, the widowed, and those beaten down by life? How have you experienced this rescuing kind of love yourself? How have you seen God live this out for other people in distress?
3. Read Psalm 82:3-4 and Isaiah 1:17. It seems that God wants His followers to live out compassion for the oppressed, the weak, and the fatherless, just like He does. What's the most meaningful experience you've had to date of living this out? What feelings, "aha's," and insights did it raise for you?
4. Read James 1:27. There's something about a faith that looks after widows and orphans that God considers pure and faultless. Why do you think that is? Why do you think it feels good when we do it?
5. Statistics about big problems like the orphan crisis worldwide can overwhelm and paralyze us. Sydney Smith, an English pastor in the early 1800's, once said, "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little." What do you think he meant by this? How might this perspective "free us up" in the face of huge problems?
6. Most of us can't move to Congo to care for kids, or physically adopt a child from there into our home. How does child sponsorship bless and improve the lives of kids you may never actually meet face to face? What do you spend about \$40/month on that you could give up in order to sponsor a child?