

Vineyard Community Church

Community Group Discussion Guide 8.15.10

Moving Closer?

I John 4:7-21

Getting Acquainted

1. What is your favorite board game?
2. Who was your first friend and how long were you friends?

Sermon Discussion

3. As Thomas has been talking about community, what has impacted you the most?
4. Using the analogy of the fire pit which represented relationships, how close to the pile of coals would you say you are at the moment?
5. Which of the three levels of relationship are easiest for you: association, friendship or depth?
6. What do you think about the idea of the majestic moving into the messy and love getting perfected in our relationships with each other? Where do you currently need God's love to be perfected in the space between you and someone else?
7. I John 4:7 states that God is love. When you consider who God is, what words fly up and stick to Him? How can you reframe any negative ideas that you have about God? When you think about God loving you, is it harder for you to love Him or to receive His love?
8. How do you understand the concept of love crowding out fear? (V. 18) How have you seen this played out in your life?
9. What do you think about the concept that if love stops with you it is a lie? (V. 20)
10. When it comes to relationships, what do you fear? What do you think about the idea that faith is knowing the fear and trusting God anyway?
11. Do you agree with the idea that "closer" is safety and isolation is dangerous? How prone to isolation are you? What one thing would you like God to help you with when it comes to relationships?

Digging Deeper

12. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What role do you see forgiveness playing in relationships?