**Spiritual Growth Questions for February 14, 2021**

1) We were made to have a heart for God. Describe a time when you hungered for God, felt a desire to look for him or be closer to him.

2) Read Romans 5:8 and 1 John 4:7; what stands out to you about how God showed his love?

**Romans 5:8**: but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**1 John 4:7**: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

3) Who is your community during Covid-19? How are you staying connected?

4) Are there people you feel God leading you to be in community with now/in the future? What steps can you take to begin those relationships?

**II. Read the following scripture: Romans 5:1-11, Ephesians 3:14-21.**Choose one of the passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method.

**S**cripture: Read the passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

**O**bservation:  Write down what you see in this passage.  Make as many observations as you can.

**A**pplication:  Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read.  Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed.  How is Jesus revealed?

**P**rayer:  Write out a short prayer.

We Were Made to Have a Heart for God

Dolores Park Church

February 14, 2021
Emily Babiak

On Valentine’s Day, we shower our loved ones with chocolates and flowers (or virtual hugs?). Today we will spend some time reflecting on the greatest love we’ll ever know – which is of course, the love of God. And that love is demonstrated to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:7Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **Big Idea:** **Our hearts were created for love. God loves us deeply. We were made to love God and each other.**

I. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to have a heart for God.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” Genesis 3:8-9

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:13-16

III. God wants \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22: 37-40

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.
1 John 5:2

Praise the Lord!; Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments! Psalm 112:1

Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! Psalm 105:1-4

IV. God also wants us to love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and be in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

**Who is God growing your hearts to love?**

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart... Ecclesiastes 3:11

**Our hearts were made to love our creator. We were made to love God. Our hearts are for Him.**

II. God has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for you.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32

**God’s heart is for you. It always has been**

**and always will be.**