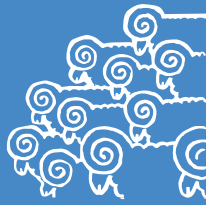


OH, THE OVERWHELMING, NEVER-
ENDING, RECKLESS LOVE OF GOD
OH, IT CHASES ME DOWN, FIGHTS
'TIL I'M FOUND, LEAVES THE
NINETY-NINE
CORY ASBURY



LEAVING 99

LUKE 15:1-32



ICEBREAKER



- **What is the most panicked you've ever been by losing something (or by being lost)? How did you react?**
- **Did you find it again? Did someone find you?**
- **What was your reaction then?**

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ (DOES GOD LOVE SOME PEOPLE MORE THAN OTHERS?) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:



God's love has equal _____ for all people.



God is perfect, God is _____, God IS _____.



God is the only n _____ being.

Everything else is contingent: this means it did not have to _____, it is not _____.

God loves you with a _____ and _____ love.



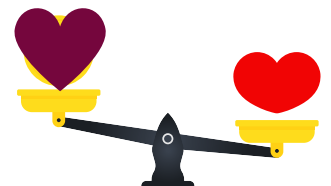
The only reason we exist is because God _____.

In one sense, because God IS love, He "has to" love everyone. However, none of us had to exist. We are contingent beings - so we are not _____.



God loves everyone with the same intensity, but He loves us to varying degrees, according to our need.

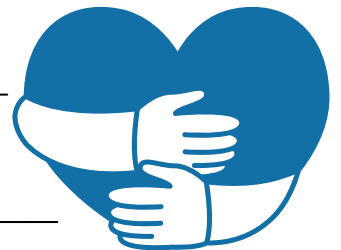
Fr Mike makes reference to the parable of the lost sheep.



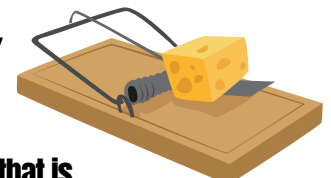
What does the lost one need, that the other 99 didn't?



- The more I need God, the more _____
- The more I need His strength, the more He gives me _____
- The more I find myself in weakness, the more I get His _____



We can fall into the trap of thinking God's love is based off our performance, our strength, our _____. The exact opposite is true!
God loves us more if we _____ more.



If God wants to use us more, He'll give us more grace. If He wants to give you a mission that is bigger than you, He'll give you even more grace to accomplish that mission!

Pause

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY SAINT OR HERO OF FAITH WHOSE LIFE ILLUSTRATES THAT POINT?

- ASCEND YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (DIOCESE OF WATERFORD & LISMORE) -

LEAVING 99

LUKE 15:1-32



The limiting factor is not God's offer of love, but rather our _____ to enter into that love.

Explain Br Timothy Danaher's analogy of Jack and Jill at the game in your own words to explain capacity for love.

What is the good news for each of us?

How does our "love capacity" grow and increase?

What is the challenge for each of us?



Now Read *Luke 15:1-32*



I remember my friend speaking at his father's funeral, how he and his siblings had once joked with their dad about which of them he loved the most. Their dad looked sincerely at them and replied, "The one who needed it the most, that's the one I loved the most."

We might wonder in today's Gospel about the 99 sheep Jesus left behind to seek out the one that was lost, or why one single coin seemed to be of more value than the others, or whether the presence of the eldest son who never squandered his father's wealth was of less value to the father than the prodigal son's.

God loves each of us immeasurably and uniquely. He cannot possibly love us more. He loves each of us according to our need also. The 99 were secure and safe but the one lost sheep was in danger and needed to be rescued and guided home. The eldest son was always loved and cherished by his father (although his heart may not have been open to that knowledge or experience), but the younger son needed the warmth of his father's embrace, he needed to be restored to the family, and that's why his father celebrated his return. God loves us uniquely and infinitely. We need never doubt that.

MISSION!

ASK JESUS TO SHOW YOU HOW TO INCREASE YOUR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE HIS LOVE, LIKE A DIVER INCREASES HIS LUNG CAPACITY THE DEEPER AND LONGER HE PRACTICES DIVING. BE CONSISTENT AND HONEST IN YOUR PRAYER.

PRAYER TIME!

Jesus, when I feel alone, fill my heart with your loving presence; when I feel afraid, draw me close to You; when I feel worthless, remind me of the price You paid for me on the Cross; when I feel unloved, remind me that You love me infinitely and uniquely. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON GOD'S INFINITE LOVE FOR YOU



- Audio Adrenaline: Leaving 99
- Cory Asbury: Reckless Love
- Maverick City: Communion
- Sarah Kroger: Belovedness
- Stefany Gretzinger: No Fear in Love
- Bethel Music: Goodness of God
- Hillsong: Broken Vessels
- Jesus Culture: Your Love Never Fails