



▶ ReView

Lacy described being afraid of doing things wrong and losing people's (and God's) approval. What difficulties does that kind of fear create in your life?

Rachel talked about feeling stuck and purposeless as a stay-at-home mom. When have you been in a place like that, where you wondered why God had you in a particular season, job, city, or a situation? Are you there now?

Lisa described her daughter, Missy, feeling uncomfortable at Lisa's expression of affection. When do you find the praise or affection of others to be uncomfortable?

▶ Bible Exploration

Song of Solomon 1:5-2:17: Which lines seem to be communicating Shulamith's fear that she might not be good enough for Solomon?

Which verses show how Solomon reassures Shulamith that he finds her beautiful? What are some of the things he compares her to?

What are some of the things Shulamith compares Solomon to?

Luke 15:11-24: Why did the younger son feel undeserving of his father's love? What does he do that demonstrates this feeling of unworthiness?

How does the father's response to his son demonstrate his love? What lesson can we learn from this story today?

Mark 5:25-34: Why might the sick woman have felt undeserving of Jesus' love and attention? What does she do that demonstrates this feeling of unworthiness?

How does Jesus' response to her demonstrate His love? What lesson can we learn from this story today?

Judges 6:11-24; 36-40: Why might Gideon have felt undeserving of the Lord's love and attention? What does he do that demonstrates this feeling of unworthiness?



How does the Lord demonstrate His love toward Gideon? What lesson can we learn from this story today?

John 4:4-29: Why might the Samaritan woman have felt undeserving of Jesus' (or anyone's) love and attention? What does she do that demonstrates this feeling of unworthiness?

How does Jesus' response to her demonstrate His love? What lesson can we learn from this story today?

Which of these characters can you most relate to? Why? What, in your own life, makes you most feel undeserving of the Father's love?

1 John 4:7-19: What does it mean to say that God not only loves us, but that He is love? How would you explain this statement in your own words?

What does John say is the most definitive evidence we have of God's love for us?

What are some of the evidences John lists that demonstrate that we belong to God?

Why can't fear exist concurrently with perfect love?

▶ Deeper Walk

Select at least one activity below to complete during the next week.

- **Bible Study/Memorization:** 1 John is a wonderful letter about the love of God, written by "the disciple whom Jesus loved." Read it through a few times this week, and choose a passage that particularly speaks to you to memorize.
- **Conversation:** Get together with a trusted friend this week and share with her the fears and failures that you see standing in the way of you experiencing an intimate relationship with God—and invite her to do the same with you. Commit to pray for each other and encourage each other to remember God's love despite your unworthiness.
- **Journal:** Reflect in writing about the insecurities you have that keep you from realizing God's great love for you. Where have these fears come from? What do you now know is true of God that changes your perspective on these fears?
- **Read:** *Crazy Love*, by Francis Chan.
- **Pray:** Thank God every day for His boundless love despite your weaknesses and failings.