

The Love of God - Holly Back

What is it all about? If someone asked you to share the gospel would you be able to answer them? What would you say?

Holly's version:

God is the creator of the universe and everything in it. It was good because God is good. God made us in his image, and so in him we can find the perfect Father and the perfect Mother. We were created to live in harmony with God and with each other, and because God is so loving, he gave us free will so we could choose Him back. But, Adam and Eve chose to disobey Him and sin entered the world. From that point, there were no people who lived without sin, including us, apart from one man. God sent himself, his only son, to save the world. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and then died a horrific death. He took our guilt and paid the ultimate price for us, then three days later he rose again and conquered death. He forgives our sin and reunites us with God. He created the way back home, and this is the best news you'll ever hear.

What do you think it's important to convey when telling people the good news about Jesus?

Holly shared with us some stories from the last few months:

Students: She shared how incredible it's been to watch the students who have made their home here, and love Jesus, a lot of whom come from non-Christian families. There are a group of lads who have been praying in the prayer room every Wednesday for the last 3 years. They are vulnerable, and they pray and prophesy over each other. Watching them you can see the love of God that they're experiencing.

Women's Worship Nights: Hearing women all worshipping together is a powerful sound. The last night they had nearly 100 women. The only agenda is to glorify God and they've seen chains breaking and people being met with the love of God. People have been bringing friends, expecting to see God's breakthrough. A student invited 4 of her friends, telling them she was playing a gig. All 4 of them broke down in tears during the worship without knowing why, they were so impacted by the worship.

Alpha: They've had prodigals coming home, parents' prayers for their children to know Jesus have been answered. They've also seen people coming to know Jesus for the first time, and the first thing they've said is "I need a Bible". When they're filled with the Holy Spirit they suddenly become hungry for God's word. It's like they're starving and they need that Spiritual food.

Where have you seen people experiencing the love of God recently? What does it look like? How do they respond?

In all these areas, Holly's seeing people receiving God's love for them, a hunger for God's word, a fresh desire to share the good news with friends and family, fresh motivation in the area of self control, and an overall peace and joy in their lives.

In all these breakthroughs there is a 5 step pattern:

1. A fresh revelation of the truth - there's a whole reality that they don't know about
2. When they realise the truth they look up, away from their circumstances and themselves, and look to God
3. When they look at Him they're struck by his awesomeness, and they worship Him
4. They have a revelation of God's divine love for them, that he really did die for them
5. When they recognise His love they are filled with freedom. They know the truth that they are a child of God.

Do you feel like you need God?

The thing that gets in the way of receiving God's love is pride. Pride puts us in the centre. The 5 steps above are actually a process of getting rid of pride, and we need to go through that regularly.

How can we actively counteract pride?