

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Lifegroup Study - Wild and Free Love

We are doing a series called WILD and Free.

Freedom is a hallmark of the Kingdom of God and there is an aspect of God's nature that is wild and untamed. He is the "Wild thing - who created everything". As Pastor Kate Rook shared with us on Sunday -we can see God's wild and free nature revealed in his extravagant love for us.

- When you hear the word extravagant what comes to mind?

Read John 3:16-18 The Message

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

- Have you ever felt guilty of doing, being, or getting it wrong?
- When is it helpful to point the finger at someone else's mistakes?
- Do you think it is significant that Jesus came to help rather than to condemn?

Jesus life and death proves that God's love for us all is extravagant and unconditional – totally selfless. This is the same love that we are called to demonstrate in our own lives as disciples of Jesus.

Read John 15:9-15

The message paraphrase describes it like this -"If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love."

- What is your home like? Do you feel it is a safe place?
- How would you describe yourself at when you are at home?

Read John 15:1-5

- Why do you think God would want to cut the "deadwood" out of our lives?
- What do you think Jesus is talking about when he speaks of fruitfulness?
- Have you ever felt it hard to love someone unconditionally?
- Why or what made it so hard?

Our expectations of getting something back can be a barrier to unconditional love. It diminishes the purity of our love when it comes with strings attached.

- Is it reasonable to expect a return on our love? Why/why not?

Only God can truly help us to love the difficult people in our life. When we are in that place where we can be honest with God and hand over the struggle to him, choosing his will over our own it is then that we find out what his unconditional love for us is really like.