



Lost That Lovin' Feeling | Shawn Johnson | 2.19.23

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Shawn continued our new series “~~Real~~ Real Relationships” by revealing the truth that love is not a feeling but a choice. He takes us through Scripture and reminds us of the daily choice to love one another just as Christ has loved us. After a decade of highlight reels, everybody’s ready for some behind the scenes. People want authenticity and real. And its truer in relationships than anywhere else. It’s time to be real about the struggles of relationships. And it’s time to let God be real with us about what he wants for our relationships.

Before you dive into the study check-in with each other by asking these questions:

How has God revealed himself to you in the last week?

Where do you need God to show up in your life?

GROW

Read Psalm 139:23-24

In this Scripture David is remembering that just as his enemies, he also had done things that were dishonoring to God. He invites God to search him to find anything in his life that is not honoring to him so that he could repent and move forward in freedom. We can be challenged by this invitation because this not only brings freedom into our own lives but also how we show up in our relationships. God reveals to us where we are dishonoring to him in many ways: through reading our Bible, through hearing the Word of God preached, the challenging love of friends, and through the whisper of the Spirit. In asking God to search us, we are inviting him to open our hearts so that we might receive the conviction of his Spirit. It is asking God to point out anything in us that is offensive to him, and we will then listen.

Have there been times in your life when God has revealed things to you that were hard, but essential, for you to hear? How did responding to God's voice bring freedom to you?

This week Shawn pointed out something that can be so pivotal in our own freedom as well as how we show up in our relationships. Because of the human experience we all endure a lifetime of some type of pain. And the temptation can be that when we get so focused on our own pain, we don't realize how selfish we are being and, in that selfishness, we miss the person (spouse, significant other, family member, friend) who is right in front of us. As we pray God will reveal to us where we need to change and when we change, the relationship begins to change. Just like Shawn said, when "we" win "I" win.

Tell of a time that you got so wrapped up in your own pain that it affected your relationships.

Tell of an experience that you were on the other side of someone else's selfishness due to being stuck in their own pain.

M O V E

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 3:14-19; John 13:34

Love as described here in 1 Corinthians 13 is best understood as a way of life, lived in imitation of Jesus, that is focused not on oneself but on the “other” for his or her good. Love is a way of being as a person, a way of thinking, acting, and living. It is, God’s people becoming more and more like Christ. And loving like him is the greatest way to show the world who he is.

In this Scripture we just read, these are the aspects of love so then let us ask God to search us and show us how to love to like him. Loving like Christ is deciding to war together and not war against one another. This is a choice not a feeling, there is power in choosing to love. Imagine the power that resides within the relationship that goes against every attempt of the enemy by choosing to go to war together and for one another. Can you imagine what God will do in the relationship and the power in the testimony?!

Tell of a time you have chosen to go to war for an important relationship. Tell of a time when you went at war against a relationship. There is power in both. Which war was most fruitful?

To experience the power in this love we must hand over the rope, serve each other as Christ does, hydrate each other’s hearts and pray! To do this we must be rooted in God’s love. If we do not know his deep love and affection for us, then there is no way we would be able to love others like him.

How has knowing God’s deep love and affection for you impacted the way you love your spouse, significant other, family member, friend?

What tends to be more difficult for you in relationships: handing over the rope? Hydrating the heart or praying?

Shawn reminded us to start small. One step at a time. To pray miracles. To pray joy and peace. To confidently know that God is softening hearts, bringing us to repentance and freedom to be deeply rooted in his love so then we can love just like him.

P R A Y

Commit to praying for one another as we all know real relationships are difficult but worth it. Pray for courage and strength to do the hard work so that we will begin to reflect the love of Christ to the world.

