

# Connect Group Studies



*'Bringing God and people together'*

## **"For God so loved the world...": Having a love for people of other religions and cultures.**

This month we are discussing some world religions and focusing on what it is that we truly believe and how we can reach out to others that God loves so much.

*Hand out world religions sheet for people to look at for interest in their own time.*

Read Acts 10:28-36

**Discuss this passage and how it applies to our lives.**

There are many social limits that keep us apart from people God loves and would like us to befriend. **Discuss some of the prejudices and assumptions you have observed in our local community.**

Read 1 John 5:1-3, Matthew 22:37-39, John 13:34 & 1 John 2:6-8

**Q. What is the essence of these commandments?**

Something to think about:

Loving God means that God's love surrounds you like the water you swim in or the air you breathe, and that you want nothing more than to "live God's way."

Jesus wants our friendship, and doing what he commands means caring what he cares for. Not blindly, but intelligently and freely. Loving what he loves. Working for justice for the rest of the human flock God loves so much.

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16

**Q. How can you "live God's way" with people who have different beliefs?**

**Share experiences you have had that have made you certain that God loves you personally and has accepted you and given you a place in His family.**

or

**For next meeting: Consider asking group members to give a short testimony of God's work in their lives, in miraculous encounters or in inner character changes.**

*Optional verses to read & discuss*

**Discuss John 14:1-3**

**Discuss Mark 9: 36-41**

**Discuss Matthew 12:31-33**

*Optional hand out:*

**What Do you really believe?**

INTRODUCTION: Billy Graham wrote on the subject, "God in Human Form." The argument was concerning the proof that Jesus Christ is God.

QUESTION: What proofs did Jesus offer that He was truly God come in human form?

First - There was the proof of His perfect life. He could ask, Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin?(John 8:46) and no one could answer!

Second - There was the evidence of His miraculous power. His power was the power of God Almighty.

Third - There was the evidence of fulfilled prophecy. Hundreds of years before His birth, the prophets of the Old Testament spoke precisely of His death and resurrection.

Fourth - There was the evidence of His resurrection from the dead.

Fifth - There is the proof of changed lives. Christ alone, the divine Son of God, has power to change the human heart. And He does.