



Sermon Discussion Guide


Greater Love: The Advocate

1 John 1:5-2:2

Ray Cortese, August 22 & 23, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 John 1:5–2:2. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever needed an advocate in your life?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

THE ADVOCATE: OUR MALADY

- 3 Cornelius Plantinga said, "The awareness of sin used to be our shadow, but the shadow has dimmed." Is the doctrine of sin an antiquated and outdated concept? Why is a knowledge of sin necessary for an accurate understanding of grace?
- 4 When it comes to confessing sin, do you tend to be generic or specific? When was the last time God allowed you to see and own a specific way in which you sinned?

- 5 In your own words, what is the difference between your actual sins versus your sin nature?
- 6 Which of the following describe you? Can you give examples?
- Self-absorbed
 - I don't like being under God's authority
 - I want to be God
 - My wellbeing is always primary

THE ADVOCATE: OUR APPEAL

- 7 What is the only requirement for entrance into the kingdom of God? How does this make Christianity different from other religions?
- 8 Ray said, "God can't just forgive our sins." Why can't He? What is lost if you lose the justice and wrath of God?
- 9 How does the movie, *Man On Fire*, depict the gospel? Why would it be unjust for God to punish you if you are in Christ?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?