

march 12 & 13

# OVERCOMES SHAME

erik dunkin, college pastor

# what love DOES

## INTRODUCTION

This week, Pastor Erik taught on *What Love Does: Overcomes Shame*, the first sermon of our two-week series preparing our hearts for Easter. Pastor Erik challenged us to define God's love. Is it a reality in our lives, or has it become a mere idea? There are two ways God's love changes us - He overcomes our shame and restores our purpose.

## DISCUSSION

1. **Read John 21:15-17.** What are Peter's reactions to Jesus' questions? How would you have initially reacted to Jesus' questioning had you failed as Peter did? How does Jesus address Peter's shame?
2. Define shame. How does shame affect daily life? What's the difference between shame and guilt? Can one be forgiven and still plagued by shame?
3. Instead of openly addressing Peter's issue, could Jesus have just left it alone? Read **Psalm 141:5**, **Proverbs 9:8** and **Proverbs 27:5**. Why is rebuke seen as an act of love in these passages? Share with the group one instance when a friend or family member's rebuke helped restore a relationship in your life.

## THINK ABOUT IT

Imagine the following scenario: A stranger knocks on your door some dark and rainy evening. After you greet him, he softly whispers to you he knows your darkest secret, and unless you come up with a substantial amount of money, he will reveal that secret to your loved ones. Now imagine what would happen if you trusted your family's love, and turned in the presence of the stranger and revealed the hidden secret. What would happen to the stranger's power over you?

## DO SOMETHING

1. Consider what shame may be lurking in your heart over a past failure. Jesus wants to release you from that shame so you are no longer spiritually blackmailed by it. His death on the cross not only releases you from the penalty of a sin but also from your present shame. Be open with God about the sin so further shame will lose its power. Share your repentance with a trusted Christian.
2. **Read 1 John 1:8-9** and journal what God reveals to you through these verses. Share this with your group next week.
3. Begin thinking and praying about people to invite to the Easter services at Prairie Lakes Church. Is someone in your circle caught up in shame? Pray about the best way to approach them, and ask the Holy Spirit to go before you to prepare their hearts.

For more information, contact [group@prairielakeschurch.org](mailto:group@prairielakeschurch.org).