

.....

Fr. Mike's Thought Train

.....

—BIG QUESTION—

What does Scripture teach us about love?

—SHORT ANSWER—

Love costs something.
Love comes through sacrifice.
Love is the gift of self.

THE BREAKDOWN

- ↑ We were made for leisure, labor, and love, but all three have been broken and twisted by sin.
- ↑ God offers us a remedy to learn how to love again.
 - * *Since Adam and Eve were made for love but chose selfishness instead, the remedy is sacrifice of one's self through suffering.*
- ↑ The problem: Sin seeks pleasure without sacrifice.
- ↑ The remedy: Love that costs something. Our everyday difficulties are a remedy for sin.
- ↑ The power: Since we can't do this on our own, God sends a redeemer.
- ↑ The promise:
 - * *The pre-good news (or protoevangelium) ... God promises us a redeemer.*
 - * *Adam's punishment points the way to Jesus. As Jesus drags his cross to Calvary to lay down his life for our salvation, he works among thorns and thistles by the sweat of his brow.*
- ↑ He shows us the cost of love.
- ↑ Loving when it hurts teaches us that love is meant to be a gift of self.
- ↑ Who do you find difficult to love and how can you love them?

WRITE IT OUT

1. What three things does Fr. Mike say we have been made for?

- a. Love, learning, and leadership
- b. Labor, laughter, and learning
- c. Leisure, labor, and love
- d. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

Discussion Starter

Give an example of each of the three things we have been made for.....
.....

2. What does Fr. Mike suggest about God's words to Adam and Eve after the Fall in the third chapter of Genesis?

- a. That God's punishment of their sin should have been harsher
- b. That God went too far in his punishment
- c. That God is giving them a remedy, rather than simply a punishment
- d. None of the above

Discussion Starter

Give an example of a consequence you received that actually taught you something.....
.....

3. What is the main point Fr. Mike shares about love?

- a. Love is the greatest feeling on earth.
- b. Teens are not really capable of love.
- c. Love is not found in Scripture.
- d. Love costs something; it requires sacrifice.

Discussion Starter

Give an example of the kind of love that Fr. Mike describes.....
.....

4. What is the symbolism of the leather garments worn by our first parents in Genesis 3?

- a. Leather comes at a great cost so it points to sacrifice.
- b. Leather is made from sheep, symbolizing Jesus is the Lamb of God.
- c. Leather is made in a long process, symbolizing that it will take a long time for Adam and Eve to be redeemed.
- d. Leather is unclean and forbidden to the Israelites.

Discussion Starter

What is something that you possess that cost someone a whole lot in order for you to have it?

.....

5. What parallel between Adam and Christ does Fr. Mike make?

- a. Adam and Jesus are both made from dust.
- b. Adam was told he would toil by the sweat of his brow while the ground brought forth thorns and thistles. Jesus toiled on the Cross and was crowned with thorns.
- c. Adam and Jesus both lived in obedience to God's commands.
- d. The names of Adam and Jesus in Aramaic both have sixteen letters.

Discussion Starter

Can you think of any other ways that the lives of Adam and Jesus are similar?

.....



- 6. Where do you see examples of sacrificial love in real life, film, music, or literature? Where do you see distorted models of love?
- 7. How do you feel about the idea of pain or suffering teaching us how to love? Have you ever experienced this yourself?
- 8. Who loves you sacrificially? How?
- 9. The challenge at the end of the video is to love someone who is difficult to love. What are some concrete ways that you could love more effectively today?

Hands On

MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY

Think of someone in your life who loves you or others in a sacrificial way. Write a letter thanking and encouraging that person. Try to include some specifics about his or her example of sacrificial love. To make it more personal, write it by hand and then put it in the mail or hand deliver it.

Food for Thought

1. Think about the things in your life right now that are the biggest challenges. Write about how you can grow in sacrificial love through those challenges.

2. What is love? Write your own description in light of 1 Corinthians 13.
