



PATHWAYS TO DISCIPLESHIP

Living God's Love

WHAT IS PATHWAYS?

- An intentional focus on becoming more like Jesus
- A gathering of disciples with a common goal of living out their faith in their community context
- A blend of teaching, experiential learning, small group discussion, and prayer
- A place where open discussion is welcomed

HOW
DO
YOU
PICTURE
GOD?

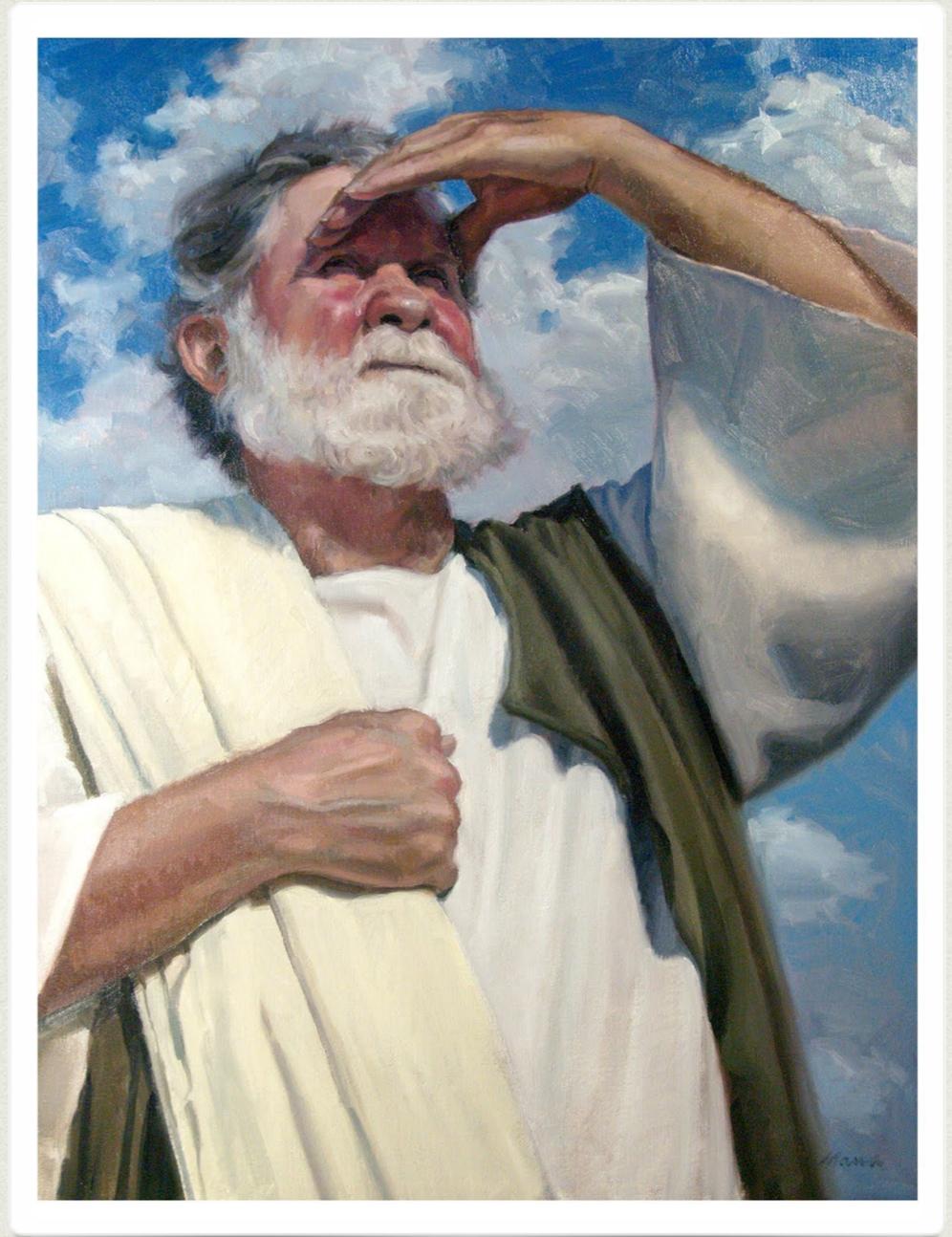




God's Love

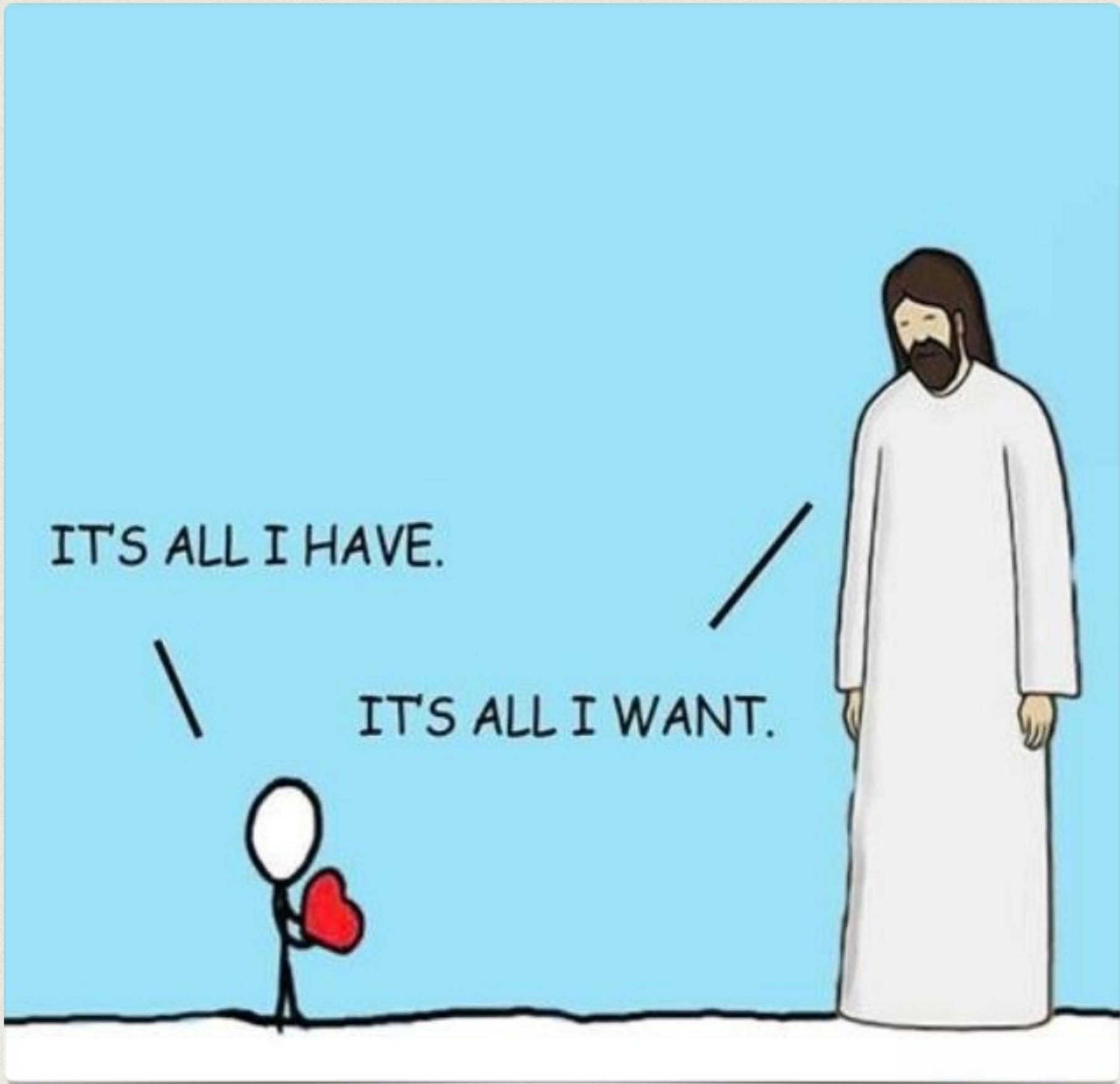
THE FATHER'S LOVE

- Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. Read this on your own later.
- Notice the Father's behavior and reaction to His son returning home.
- How do you know the Father loves the son?



ROMANS 5:6-8

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person, someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



IT'S ALL I HAVE.

IT'S ALL I WANT.



Beginning a Love Relationship With God



TERM OF ENDEARMENT

- “Abba” Father
- Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6

1 JOHN 3:1

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.”

- Breaking away from former loves
 - Repentance, Mark 1:14-15
- Embracing the call to follow Him
 - Mark 8:33-34
- Break away from anything
- Do things He desires
- New birth, New Relationship, New Life

ROMANS 6:1-14

- ... we too may live a new life.
- ... anyone who has died has been freed from sin.
- ... the life He lives, He lives to God.
- ... to God in Christ alive.

“Baptism is not a mindless ritual through which we magically receive salvation. It is an intentional walk into death, upon repentance, where we by faith encounter the blood of Jesus which gives us new life.”

“Baptism is not a physical bath,
but a sign of an earnest appeal
to God for a change of heart.”

(Living God's Love, p. 47)

see 1 Peter 3:21

Upon receiving a new heart, we
receive God's promised Holy
Spirit who indwells us,
strengthens us, and enables us
to become like Jesus!

- Jesus came... full rights as sons.
- God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.
- The Spirit that calls out “Abba” Father
- Son of God; Heir of God (Galatians 4:5-6)

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- What role does repentance play in your love response to God?
- What can you do to stay focused on God's love for you daily?
- What role does obedience play in your love response to God?
- How does the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life cause you to call out to and embrace God as "Abba Father"?



GROUP QUESTIONS

- How would you describe God's love to a child?
- What story or metaphor comes to mind that helps you connect with the love God has for us?
- Take a few minutes to draw out a picture of God's love. When you're done, explain your creation.
- Share a moment in your life where you undeniably felt the love of God?



CHALLENGE

Spend time in Scripture this month. Everything you read points to God's love.

Find one way to communicate that love to others.



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