

## **L.O.V.E. - O is for Openness**

**Jonah 4:2, Exodus 32:11-14, Luke 15:20, 1 John 3:1-2**

**Feb 10, 2019**

### **WARM-UP QUESTIONS:**

1. When was the last time you tried something new (a new food, activity, situation)? Looking back, how did you feel about that experience?
2. What are some of positive benefits of being open to new things? What are some of the potential downsides?
3. Think of a time when you had a conversation with someone you disagree with. How did their openness or lack thereof affect your relationship with them?

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. When you think of God, do you usually think of God as being open or closed? What leads you to this conclusion?
2. Reflect on the attributes of God described in Exodus 32:11-14 and Jonah 4:1-2. What might it mean that God relents? Recall other incidents where God seems to change His posture toward destruction. How do these acts change in accordance to God's character of love and justice?
3. In the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), why is the father's reaction so remarkable? Before seeing his son in the flesh, do you think the father had other thoughts on how he would receive his son?
4. The Gospel frequently described Jesus as having compassion towards the people. What does it mean for the God-man Jesus to be moved with emotions towards us? What is the significance of the Incarnation in relations to God being influenced by human plight?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Pastor Jason says that "God wants to be moved by his children." What is your reaction to this statement and how it applies to your relationship with Him?
2. God allows Himself to be influenced by us, but what we want is not always the most wise or best choice. Where then is the nuance of us asking God to take action in light of yielding and submitting to His will?
3. What are some obstacles preventing you from being open to others in love and humility?
4. How can you adopt the posture of openness toward the people around you? How might you reach out to people different than you in background, culture, economic status, gender, education, orientation, etc?