

When God Says “No” Week 1

1. Think back on a time when you wanted something badly, but were told “No.” What was it like? How did you react?
2. When we desire something strongly, why is our assumption that the answer from God should be “yes?”
3. If God always said yes, why would that be a problem?
4. Often times we think that if God “loves” us, He will give us what we ask for, or what we want, especially if we ask for “good” things. Someone read John 10:11, and someone else read 1 John 4:10. What do these passages tell us about how God defines “Love?” How does this differ from how our culture defines it?
5. Sometimes the most loving thing God can do is say no. Can you share some examples of how this has been true in your life?
6. Read Psalm 23: 1-3. This Psalm shows the ways that God takes care of us. Clearly there are “right paths,” which implies that there must also be “wrong paths.” Why does it say God “leads us” in them?
7. If God actively “leads us” in these paths, it implies that we might not choose them on our own. What does that tell us about the requests we make to God? Do we always know what’s best for us?
8. Read Psalm 23:4-5. Are suffering and hard times always bad things? Why/Why not? (note to the leader: Dillon pointed out in his sermon that some of the hardest times in his life was when he felt the nearest to God)
9. Read Psalm 23:6 and John 17:3. How has Christ made it possible for God’s love and goodness to follow me all the days of my life?
10. If God’s love follows me all the days of my life, what are the logical implications of that? (Note for leader: 1) God is still loving even when things are bad; 2) If God is always completely loving, then I can completely trust Him wherever He leads)