



Audio Disc: # 10



Visual Disc: # 7

Artist: Joel Auge
Album: On the Blue

Theme:
Worship

Devotional

11 SO DEEP IN LOVE

JOEL AUGE

Start Up

As students arrive, have them get in small groups of four or five. Give each group a school ruler (the 12 inch kind) and a list of items that can be found in your meeting room. Then tell the groups compete to measure all the items as quickly as possible. Designate different point values for each item (i.e. the stage is worth more than a chair). While they're measuring, play the song, "So Deep in Love," in the background. Have a time limit on the contest and award a prize –like a Joel Auge CD –to each team member.

2 Get Focused

After the contest, have your students stay in their small groups and answer the following questions:

1) What does DEEP mean to you?

- 2) What is the DEEPEST water in which you have even gone swimming?
- 3) What is a DEEP person like?
- 4) What does it mean to go DEEPER with Christ?

After they have had a few minutes to talk, have them read the passage below from Ephesians. Share the following points with your group, adding your own illustrations and anecdotes to make this devotion personal to them.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Message//Remix)

"My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit — not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength — that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God."

- 1) Our relationship with Christ grows once we invite Him into our lives. While this might seem like an overly simple principle, we must remember and focus on what comes first: a relationship with Him.
- 2) Our relationship with Christ grows as the Holy Spirit gives us guidance. We are not going to make our relationship with Christ grow by simply wishing it to be or reading the latest self-help book; rather, our relationship with Christ will grow as we spend time with Him and allow His Spirit to work in our lives.
- 3) Our relationship with Christ grows as we keep our feet firmly planted in Him. Many times when we are complaining about slow spiritual growth, it is because we have chosen to walk ahead of God's work in us.

3 Wind Down

As you conclude, ask your students to think again about things in their lives that are "deep." Challenge them to imagine the vast expanse of space, and then try to comprehend that God's love for every one of us is greater yet than that. God invites us to examine the depth of His love as we grow to love Him more. Just like the passage says, go ahead and test His love for us. He invites it because He knows we will experience a full life!