

Small Group Lesson

1 John 4:7-8

Opening question - what does the word "LOVE" mean to you?

1. Read 1 John 4:7-8 aloud. Every time John uses the word "love" in this text, he is referring to "Agape" love. This type of love is a choice, not a feeling- self-sacrificing, not self-serving- undeserved, not earned.
 - a. What does this type of love look like?
 - b. What does it mean that this type of love is a "choice"?
2. We have to begin by understanding that we are loved by God.
 - a. What does it mean that we are loved children of the Father?
 - b. Why is it so hard for us to understand that God loves us, despite what we've done?
3. This passage also helps us understand that as children of God, we have God's love IN us. What does this mean?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 aloud. Have you ever felt like you could NEVER love someone like that? Does it give you more confidence in knowing that you have God's love within you?
5. How do we access God's love within us?
6. Read this statement together out loud: "My capacity for loving others is found in my personal experience with the love of God".
7. How can we personally experience the love of God?
8. How does experiencing His love, help us love others in return?
9. Read John 13:35 aloud. Why is it so important that we are marked by love for one another?

Application

Read 1 John 4:7-8 every morning this week.

Spend time with God and experience His love for you.

Make an intentional effort to share His love with someone else (this requires you to step outside of your comfort zone).

Pray for those that have hurt you, and for those that you are holding resentment or bitterness toward, that God would help you to forgive and love that person as He does.