

part 4, Love

REMINDER: This guide is intended to spark meaningful conversation, not exhaustive coverage. The goal is connection, not completion. So feel free to spend extended time on just one or two elements that resonate with the group. Aim for heartfelt connection & personal application. Finally, trust the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion in the areas most needed by your group and enjoy!

Icebreaker: Share about any special Christmas plans that you have this year! Who are the people (not Solomon Ray;) in your life that you are going to spend time with?

- 1) How has this Advent season been for you? Share about any reminders or meaningful lessons you've experienced when it comes to **Hope, Peace, Joy**, and **Love**.
- 2) Read 1 John 4:7-11 (NIV) together. What stands out to you about love through this passage?
- 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- 3) According to the sermon, "Love without a body is missing something." What do you think that means? Why do you think God chose to come in the flesh instead of at a distance?
- 4) Take some time to review the **messiness** of the first Christmas. Why do you think God chose to enter the world in the midst of such chaos, as opposed to comfort? What kinds of connections do you see between this and your own life?
- 5) We are made for **Persons, not Products**; **Presence, not Pixels.** What might it look like to practice a deeper, more embodied kind of love in your life?
- 6) What are some physical reminders (like the wooden cross) of God's tangible love for you?
- 7) In what ways do you want to experience God's love more fully in your life this Christmas season? How might you show up in love for someone else this Christmas season?