

A Light in the Dark

A Study in 1 John



1 John 4:7-12

Getting Started

What do you love? Disclaimer: you can't say Jesus or any people

Discussion

What is the difference between saying that "God is love" and "God is loving"?

Is there any situation in your life tempting you to doubt God's love for you? Based on the text, how should you counter those doubts (vs.9-10)?

Why does John emphasize that God's love comes first and we love others in response to his love for us? What happens when our love for others isn't empowered by Jesus' love for us?

How willing are you to make sacrifices to your own comfort, preferences, etc. for the sake of others? What does our hesitancy to do so say about how we functionally define love?

Do you find yourself more loving or critical and judgmental right now? If more the latter, how might you reconnect your heart with the love of God for you this week?

As you go

Think through your next week. What opportunities do you have personally or as a group to make the sacrificial love of Jesus visible this week? Do it!

Prayer

Who has a need they would like the Group to pray for? How about a story from this past week of victory and praise?

Pray for those who are questioning God's love for them due to a specific circumstance in their life. Remember to be compassionate and understanding...slow to speak and quick to listen. And then to pray out of that place for them to experience the love of God through the cross.

