

## That Love

### Love is what God is

#### 1 John 4:7-21

## TALK IT OVER

### Study Description

Many people like the idea of love, but the word can mean many things to many people. True love is more than a sentimental feeling. It's a love that discerns, it's a love that does not practice sin, and it's a love that will be rejected by the world but will overcome the world. Ultimately, it flows from "That Love" that comes to us from Jesus (1 John 4:10), and hopefully leads us to say, "I want to embody 'that love.'" We'll be looking at John's letters to see what true love looks like and how we can show the world that love.

### Passages

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." – 1 John 4:7-21(ESV)*

### Start Talking: Process this week as a group. (15 Min)

- What are some highs and lows for the week?
- As you reflect on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

### Head: Think about the text and discuss. (10 Min)

- Read 1 John 4:7-21. What are all the things that love does?
- How do these qualities of love show us who God is?
- Why is it impossible to hate someone and still love God?
- "Perfect love casts out fear." What does John mean by this verse?

### Heart: Share how the text is shaping our beliefs. (10 Min)

- What have you been fearful about lately?
- How has God helped you to love when it was hard for you?
- How is this love that God gives different from other kinds of love?

### Hands: Live out the text. (10 Min)

- Where in your life can you abide in God's love more?
- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- Who needs the love of Jesus in your life this week?

### Pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

***For Trios questions see the back of this page***

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**Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)**

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.