

## That Love

### Love that Lays Down One's Life

#### 1 John 3:11-24

## 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

*"For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us."*—1 John 3:11-24 (ESV)

More of God's truth all week long at the "Renewal Church Denver" app or the "St. John's Denver" app in your app store.

### Start Talking: Process last week's message as a group. (15 Min)

- Is there something from last weekend's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?

### Head: Start Thinking about the Text. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read 1 John 3:11-24. Why must we love each other? What does John say about love? Do you agree or disagree?
- What is the truest act of love? Why do you think that?
- Take time to read Genesis 4:1-16, the story of Cain and Abel. Why do you think John mentions this story in his letter? What correlation does the story of Cain and Abel make to this passage about love?

### Heart: Start Sharing how the Text is shaping our beliefs. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- John says that anyone who hates their brother or sister is considered a murderer. How does that resonate with you? Has there been someone recently you've hated? Why? And what impact has that had on you and your walk with Jesus?
- "God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything." Is that a comforting verse or convicting? Why?
- What does it mean for you that Jesus loves you so much that He gave His life as a sacrifice to sin for you?

### Hands: Start living the Text. Commit to believing or obeying the text this week. (10 Min)

- How can you love like Jesus this week?
- Who in your heart do you need to seek out that you've hated recently? If you haven't hated anyone, is there anyone you've been avoiding recently? Take time to pray through reconciling with them this week.
- In what way can your actions match your words this week? Commit to following through on what you're going to do this week with one another.

### Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

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

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**1 John 3:11-24**



**TALK IT OVER**

**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.