**"Relationships Simplified" 1 John 4:7-10**
***Christmas Simplified***
**Discussion Questions**

- **Introduction**
  - Make an argument for the best Thanksgiving side dish and share your favorite or most difficult relational moment from Thanksgiving.
- **Read 1 John 4:7-8**
  - What is John saying about our love for one another and our connection to God?
  - John uses the Greek word agape for love in this passage. This is a love that is unconditional and how God loves us in spite of us. How does this differ from the world's definition of love? Explain your answer.
  - Why do we struggle to love people unconditionally?
- **Read 1 John 4:9-10**
  - John says that God's love is seen among through the sending of His son Jesus. How does God sending Jesus demonstrate or manifest His love among us?
  - According to verse 10, Jesus is the propitiation or atoning sacrifice for our sins. **Read Romans 5:6-8**. What are some of the ways God's love is displayed in the work of Christ on the cross?
  - When have you seen someone sacrificially love you and what did that feel like?
- **Read 1 John 10 again.**
  - According to this verse, who made the first move and how does that connect with **Ephesians 2:8-9**?
  - Describe a time in your life where you asked for and was granted forgiveness by someone, but you could tell by their words and actions that they did not really forgive? What was hurtful or frustrating about that situation?
  - Have you ever struggled to forgive someone? What kept you from forgiveness and how did unforgiveness affect you?
  - Why is forgiveness so difficult for us to offer to others? Explain your answer.
  - How can God's forgiveness of you help you forgive others?
- **Application & Reflection**
  - What is a specific way you can love someone unconditionally this Christmas?
  - In what way can you sacrifice as an individual or a family this Christmas season to love someone well?
  - Is there forgiveness that you have been withholding from someone? What would it take to confess that to God or someone in this group and let go?