

1 John 4:11-21 New Living Translation

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. **12** No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. **14** Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. **16** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. **17** And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. **19** We love each other because he loved us first.

20 If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? **21** And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

Discussion/Journal Questions

If you could dine with any one or two persons from history, who would it be and why?

Read 1 John 4:11-21. In verse 18, what is the connection between love and fear?

How does this connection play out in our relationship with God?

How does it play out in our relationships with other people?

In the sermon, Sam discussed how eating together is connected with loving one another. Why do you think sharing a meal helps build community?

Read Galatians 2:11-14. Why was Peter eating or not eating with the Gentiles a big deal? Does eating with someone have the same meaning today as it did then? If not, what activities might have the same meaning?

Read John 13:1-17. How significant is it that this teaching took place in the context of the Passover meal?

Read Revelation 19:6-9. Why is this image of heaven as a wedding feast significant?

Have you arranged to have a meal with someone from a different generation yet? How can your group help hold you accountable?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?