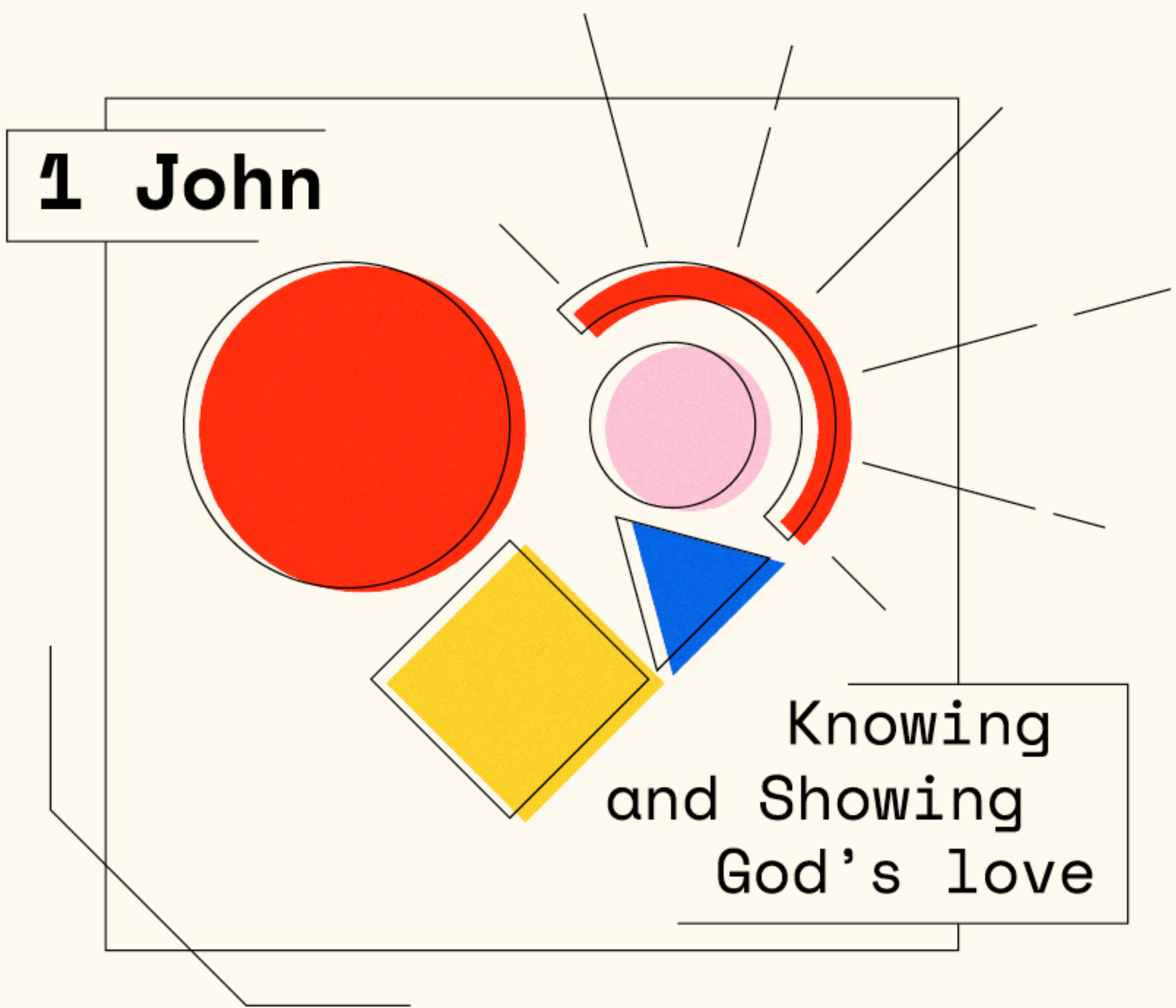


Small Group Notes

Sermon: 6 March 2022



Scripture

1 John 3v19-4v6

Overview

In this passage John covers again the themes of love, hate and truth:

1. Love vs hate - Do not be like Cain 1 John 3v11-15

2. Love in action - Lay down your lives for one another 1 John 3 v16-18

3. Love and truth - Love + Truth = True love 1 John 3v19-4v6

1. First he challenges the hearers to not be like Cain and to not give in to hate. Cain murdered his brother because Abel's offerings were accepted by God but Cain's weren't because his motives were wrong. Abel's right doing highlighted his wrong doing and Cain's resentment led him to murder.

The root of hate (or lack of love as John calls it!) can also be genuine pain where we've been hurt. We need to be quick to identify the root and bring it to God. Forgiveness is a key element to this process as it gives way to God's healing in our lives.

2. John reminds us that we can know love because we've seen it

demonstrated by Jesus. By this we know love that he laid down his life for us. John then turns the spotlight to us and reminds us that we therefore ought to lay our lives down for each other.

3. John reminds us that love and truth go hand in hand. Jesus walked that line perfectly. He is our model and guide. His teachings and life in the flesh are our standard of truth in a world that looks to deceive us. John also reminds us that we are God's children and He who is in us is greater than He who is in the world.

Questions

Pick a handful of questions to explore with your group:

1. Spend a few moments reflecting on 1 John 3:16 and the truth that Jesus laid down his life for us. Link it back to John 3:16!
2. "If you are carrying a cup which is filled to the brim and someone jogs your arm, whatever is in the cup spills out. The unexpected knocks and irritations of life are similarly a very good indicator of the quality of the life within. How do we habitually react towards other people?" (The Bible Speaks today Commentary - David Jackman) Discuss how hard/

easy it is on a day to day basis at work, in the home, at uni, in the car, to react to people with love and kindness.

3. How do we habitually react to other Christians within our church community? Can you think of scenarios within church life where we may find it hard or easy to show love? Consider interactions within serving teams, small groups, leaders.
4. Consider the call to lay your lives down for each other. Can you think of ways within your small group that this is already evident? Can you think of ways within the wider church that this is happening? Are there areas in church life where you would like to see this happening more? Where is God calling you to lay down your life? In little and big ways?
5. Can you think of ways in which Jesus perfectly lived out the call to love with actions and with truth? Can you think of ways in which we are called to love with actions and with truth?
6. Reflect on the truth that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. Give thanks for God's power and might.