

# ABIDE

First Epistle of John

## WEEK NINE

### "LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE"

#### DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 1 John 3:11-18.
2. What is the message (or instruction) we heard from the beginning?
3. Who are we commanded not to imitate and what did he do?
4. What does John call us if we hate one another?
5. What does this passage say should not take us by surprise?
6. Who is our example of how to love and what did He do?
7. What additional insight about love do verses 17-18 give us? Using these verses as your standard, how well do you demonstrate love to those around you?
8. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see it often (e.g bathroom mirror, car, desk, kitchen sink, etc.).

#### Scripture Memory:

**"We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."**

**~ 1 John 3:16**

#### I'm praying about:

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## DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 1 John 3:11-18.
2. In verse sixteen, John says that we "ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." John is not asking us to emulate Jesus in dying for one another, so what do you think this phrase means, practically speaking?
3. What does Philippians 2:3-4 tell us to do? How is this entirely contrary to our human nature?
4. What does Paul instruct us to do in Romans 12:10?
5. Think about the people closest to you in your life. How can you show preference for them in honor today? What can you do to consider their needs before your own and to regard them as more important than yourself?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 1 John 3:11-18.
  2. John does not tell us to "like" the brethren, rather he told us to "love" the brethren. Biblically speaking, loving someone is entirely different from liking them. While liking someone is rooted in emotion and is subject to change, loving someone is a decision of the will that is displayed through deliberate action. How does 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 describe how love acts?
  3. The Bible calls us to love in practical, tangible ways. Read Luke 10:30-37. What practical things did the Samaritan man do to assist the man in need? How did he demonstrate laying down his own life to prefer and assist another?
  4. Because love is an action, we can walk in love toward someone even when we don't "feel" we love him or her. This means we can act loving toward a perfect stranger, or even one we would consider our enemy. How does this challenge you to treat others, particularly those that are difficult to love?
  5. Write out this week's memory verse below:
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## DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 1 John 3:11-18.
2. Read James 2:15-16. What question is asked of the reader in this passage?
3. John asks a similar question when he says, "whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17). What command does he give in 1 John 3:18?
4. Talking about loving people is easy; actually laying down your life to love people well is difficult. It requires that you lay down your pride, selfishness, and laziness and place your resources, schedule, energy, and emotional capacity at the disposal of someone else. Which of these is most difficult for you to give and why?
5. Read John 3:16. Notice that God's love resulted in action. He loved, so He gave. As Christians we are called to emulate our Heavenly Father. If we truly love, we will love in deed and in truth, laying our lives down for others. What is one thing you can do this week to lay down your life for another?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 1 John 3:11-18. What does John say in verse thirteen?
  2. One would think that laying down our lives in love for others would result in them treating us with kindness in return. However, John indicates this will not always be the case. What does Jesus say in John 15:17-20?
  3. When you are treated poorly it is easy to desire to retaliate. What does the Bible call us to instead in Matthew 5:38-44, Romans 12:17-21, and 1 Peter 3:8-12?
  4. What is the reason we should care to love our enemies in this way, according to Matthew 5:43-48?
  5. As Jesus is physically laying down His life for the world, what does He pray in Luke 23:33-34? How is loving our enemies a reflection of what Christ did for us on the cross? How does it put the Gospel on display?
  6. Obeying the command to lay down our lives in love for one another can be incredibly difficult, but it is one of the most powerful ways we "preach" the Gospel to a lost and dying world. Write out this week's memory verse below:
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