# GROUP STUDY - FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

What was the most significant thing you learned from the sermon or something in the sermon you didn't quite understand?

## SHARE SCRIPTURE

Share a favorite Scripture about loving others. How has that passage challenged or changed the way you treat people?

## DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - 1 JOHN 2:7-11

- Continuing his Pastoral tone, how does John's use of "dear friends" give us an example of how truth should be delivered?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35 so you can see what is old and new.
- If you claim to be in the light but hate a brother, are you in the light?
- How does hatred cause us and others to stumble? How does love keep us from stumbling?
- Discuss the progression seen in John 2:11; James 1:13-15; Romans 1:21-24. What does unchecked sin lead to?
- Brad noted John's former attitude in Luke 9:54. What changed in John from there to this letter?

## THE TAKEAWAYS

KEEP SHORT ACCOUNTS WITH GOD AND MEN

*1 John 1:9; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12–14*

- What does Ephesians 4:31 command us to remove?
- What deos Colossians 3:12–14 say must take their place?
- What keeps us from dealing quickly with sin and conflict? How does the gospel confront it?

CHRISTIAN LOVE REFLECTS CHRIST'S LOVE

*John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; John 13:34–35*

- Compare John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16. What did God's love cost Him? Should we be willing to do the same?
- What conclusions about Jesus might people draw from the way our church treats its own members?
- Are people able to see sacrifical love in your life towards others?

CHALLENGE: Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 together, paying close attention to verse 5: love "keeps no record of wrongs." Ask yourself honestly: Am I keeping a record against someone? Holding it over them? Using it to justify bitterness and distance? If so, bring it into the light and do not allow darkness to deepen. Confess your resentment to God, release your claim to revenge, and trust Him in it.

Close by praying for one another: that God would cleanse us of bitterness, give us courage to deal with conflict, and teach us to love as Christ has loved us.