

SERMON STUDY



REFLECT

1. In your own words, what was the big idea for this week's sermon?
2. What questions did you have after the sermon?

ENCOUNTER

Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). It's not money or great deeds or miracles that ultimately prove discipleship, but love. More specifically, love for God's people is foundational for ministry.

The importance of loving one another worked its way deep into the bones of the apostle John. He recorded the life of Jesus in his gospel and unfolded the words of Jesus more fully in his epistles. "Love one another" is the most repeated one another command in the Bible, and it's repeated the most in 1 John. Discuss the radical importance of loving God's people in 1 John 3:11-18 and 4:7-12.

3. What heart sin drove Cain to murder Abel? How can someone be guilty of the same heart sin, even if that action isn't murder?
4. What startling statement is made about those who do not have love for one another? What effect do you think John wants to have upon his listeners with such a startling statement?
5. Discuss what John lists as evidence of truly loving one another.

6. Read 1 John 4:7-12. What is the source of love for one another?

TRANSFORM

7. "This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us" (1 John 3:16). The fuel for loving God's people is the love of Christ. How can we continually grow in our knowledge of Christ's love?
8. On your own: do you need to evaluate your own soul in light of what John says about love and salvation?

PRAYER REQUESTS

*If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is made complete in us.
~ 1 John 4:12 ~*