PALMYRA GRACE CHURCH



Grace Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: Loved People Love People (1 John 4:7–21) **Date:** November 1, 2026

1 Connect

Not tied to the text — gets everyone talking early.

- What's one thing from your week worth celebrating?
- Think of someone who loved you in an ordinary, practical way — a meal, a ride, a shoveled driveway, a text at the right moment. What did they do, and why has it stuck with you?

2 Recap

Anchors everyone in the text — no prior training needed to answer.

Read aloud together: 1 John 4:7–21

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 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. And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 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. 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. 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. We love each other because he loved us first. 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? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers.

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message or this passage?
- John says the same thing over and over in these verses. What words or ideas keep repeating? What do you think he is trying to make sure we don't miss?
- According to verses 9–10, how did God show his love? How does John define "real love" — and what does he say it is not?

3 Discovery

Digging into what the text means — okay if only a few voices carry it.

- John doesn't just say God is loving; he says God is love (v. 8). What's the difference? What does that tell us about God's character?
- Verse 10 says love starts with God loving us, not with us loving God. Why does the order matter? How would our faith look different if we got it backward?
- "No one has ever seen God" (v. 12), yet his love is brought to full expression when we love each other. What does it mean that the invisible God chooses to make himself visible through ordinary, imperfect people?
- Verses 17–18 say perfect love expels the fear of punishment. Why would someone who is still afraid of God's judgment have a hard time loving others well?

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4 Application

The funnel narrows into life application and vulnerability.

- Sunday's question: Do you know how much God loves you — not you on your best behavior, but you as you really are? What makes that hard to believe some days, and what helps you remember it?
- "We love each other because he loved us first" (v. 19). When your love for others runs dry, what might that say about how well you're receiving God's love?
- Is God's love shining brightly through you right now, or is it kind of dim? Who is one person — at home, at work, or next door — who needs to see God's love through you this week?

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5 Prayer / Response

Occasional action step — not required every week.

- How can we pray for you this week?
- (Optional action step) Choose one person and one act of love this week: a meal, a note, a mowed lawn, a listening ear. Come ready to share how it went next week.
