



Grace Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Title: Love Is Something We Do

Date: October 18, 2026

1

Connect

Not tied to the text — gets everyone talking early.

- What's one thing from your week worth celebrating?
- Think of someone whose love for you you've never had to question. Why do you feel that way about them?

2

Recap

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

1 John 3:11–24

11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another, 12 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. 16 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth. 19 This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. 23 Now this is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he has given us.

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message or this passage?
- John reaches all the way back to Cain and Abel (v. 12). What did Cain do, and what reason does John give for why he did it?
- Look at verses 16–18. List every concrete action John uses to describe what love looks like.
- According to verse 23, what is God's command? Notice that it has two parts.

3**Discovery**

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

- Why do you think John says that anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer (v. 15)? Isn't that a big jump? What is he getting at?
 - Verse 16 says we come to know love by looking at Jesus laying down his life for us. What does that reveal about God's character — and why does John point us there before telling us to love others?
 - Why shouldn't we be surprised when the world hates us (v. 13)? How might expecting that change the way we respond to people who don't know Jesus?
 - Verses 19–22 aren't easy to follow. What do you think it means that "God is greater than our hearts"? How might God use our conscience and his Spirit to show us where we stand with him?
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4**Application**

The funnel narrows into life application and vulnerability.

- Sunday's message opened with the words "Your words don't mean anything to me." Have you ever heard something like that — or thought it about someone else? What was going on?
 - Verse 17 talks about seeing a need and having the means to help. What reasons do we tend to give ourselves for not helping (e.g., "they made their choices")? Where have you done that?
 - Who is one person who is hard for you to love right now? What might loving them "in action and in truth" look like this week?
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5**Prayer / Response**

Occasional action step — not required every week.

- How can we pray for you this week?
 - (Recommended this week) What's one need you see that you have the means to meet? Are you willing to do anything about it?
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