

## That Love

### Love that Test the Spirits

#### 1 John 4:1-6

## TALK IT OVER

### Study Description

Many people like the idea of love, but the word can mean many things to many people. True love is more than a sentimental feeling. It's a love that discerns, it's a love that does not practice sin, and it's a love that will be rejected by the world but will overcome the world. Ultimately, it flows from "That Love" that comes to us from Jesus (1 John 4:10), and hopefully leads us to say, "I want to embody 'that love.'" We'll be looking at John's letters to see what true love looks like and how we can show the world that love.

### Passages

*"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error." – 1 John 4:1-6 (ESV)*

### Start Talking: Process last week's message as a group. (15 Min)

- What's one thing from last weekend's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?

### Head: Think about the text and discuss. (10 Min)

- Read 1 John 4:1-6. How do you know the difference between the Spirit of truth and the Spirit of error?
- What do you know about the Holy Spirit? What does the Scriptures say about the Spirit of God? Take time to do a search in your Bibles or apps to see where the Holy Spirit is present.
- According to the text, how do we know that we are from God?

### Heart: Share how the text is shaping your beliefs. (10 Min)

- How has the Holy Spirit kept you from believing the lies of the devil? Can you share a time you felt Him fighting for you?
- What are some ways that the Holy Spirit speaks to you?
- How does the Holy Spirit reflect God's love in your life?
- How can you take comfort this week that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"?
- What are some things you've heard recently that don't sound like they are from God? Be specific to your own experiences.

### Hands: Start living out the text. (10 Min)

- Take time to talk to the Holy Spirit. Pray that you would be filled with Him this week.
- Who needs to be reminded of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives this week?
- How can you speak the truth in love to someone who needs to hear it this week?

### Pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

More of God's truth all week long at the "Renewal Church Denver" app or the "St. John's Denver" app in your app store.

**For Trios questions see the back of this page.**

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**Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. Pick a question. (15 Min)**

1. Who is one non-believer or someone without a church home that you need to reach out to this week?
2. What kind of conversations are you having with people you are reaching out to?
3. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
4. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.