

## That Love Love Imitates Good 3 John 5-12

# 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, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true." – 3 John 5-12 (ESV)*

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.

### Start Talking: Process this week as a group. (15 Min)

- What are some highs and lows of the week?
- What's one thing from last weekend's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?

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

- Read 3 John 5-12. What ways should the Church do good?
- Do you think you can know and love God and still do evil? Why or why not?
- How do truth, doing good, and love all work together to show us the qualities of God?

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

- What things do you see yourself imitating sometimes?
- Is it always easy to do good? Why or why not?
- Is there a difference between being good and doing good? If so, how?

### Hands: Live out the text. (10 Min)

- Love is action, what new actions will you start doing to live out love?
- Who needs your prayers right now? Let them know that you are praying for their good.

### Pray with power. (15 Min)

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

### 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.