

Life Group Guide

1 John 4:7-21

Connect: 30-45 mins Connecting.

Consider sharing a meal together, discussing the highs/lowes of the week, or any celebrations/hard things that happened last week, follow up from prayer requests or confessions last week.

A reminder: If you are looking for more in depth study to do during the week, before the sermon, this is a free 12 week course through 123 John:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-the-bible-1-3-john/#week-1-overview>

Recap: Last week, the sermon provided us with a rubric for “testing the spirits” when evaluating if what is molding and shaping us is Biblical or not. How did that rubric contribute to you being more open to (abiding in) the Holy Spirit’s leading in your life?

Discuss: Scripture/Sermon Discussion (30-45 mins)

1. Reread this week’s passage 1 John 4:7-21. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What stood out? What was challenging? Encouraging?
2. According to 1 John 4:7, what is the most accurate way we can represent the communicable nature of God to others? Why can this only be accomplished by being open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

“Mutual love is a sign of the indwelling of God” Alan England Brooke

3. God sent His only Son to the earth to be the clearest, most authentic representation of His loving nature to mankind. In what ways does your outlook need to grow/change so your encounters with others become opportunities to dispense the love of God towards them?
4. Think about the plan of salvation God instituted and finalized by providing Jesus as our propitiation for His wrath towards sin. How has this communicated God’s love toward you but also upheld His Justice and Holiness?
5. In light of 1 John 4:16-17, the sermon taught that the Bema (aka judgment seat) of Christ is no longer something to be feared (Romans 8:1) but has become a source of commendation/reward. How does this impact any fear you have about death and/or judgment Day?

Closing Practice: Living on Purpose (EPHESIANS 2:10)

As deeply loved children of God, we have a high calling/opportunity to be imitators of God, and walk in love (Eph 5:1-2). We uphold the image, character, and nature of God our Father when we love others with His love; confronting the narrative of God being distant, angry, petulant, and capricious. If you were confident that yours and everyone else’s greatest need was to experience the love of God and that you have everything you need to fulfill this purpose by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; how would this change every interaction you have with others either in person or online?