

Living in the Light

A STUDY IN 1ST JOHN

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Living in the Light Part 5—Love in Action
5.16.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[1 John 5:13, AMP]

“13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God [which represents all that Jesus Christ is and does], so that you will know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that you [already] have eternal life.

[1 John 3:16-24, NIV]

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is

greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

It is important that we are not an infomercial-style church; more than ever, we need a church that is a city set on a hill, shining in the darkness.

The effectiveness and relevancy of the church moving forward will be directly connected to how you love those in your community. We are called to live love, to love in action.

It's easy to love at a distance; it's difficult to love face-to-face.

[Jeremiah 17:9, ESV]

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?

Showing real love to real people cannot be achieved by just "following our hearts." As believers, when we love, we should be led by The Cross.

[John 3:16-17, ESV]

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Love in action looks like Jesus on the Cross: continually giving and forgiving.

Resentment is like drinking poison and hoping the other person dies...To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.

—C.S. Lewis

1. We know that we belong to the truth. (1 John 3:19)

The truth can defend itself, yet we feel like we have to convince others of it.

2. We set our hearts at rest in His Presence. (1 John 3:19)

3. We have confidence before God. (1 John 3:21)

The source, the foundation, of our confidence is that agapeo, the love in action.

4. This is how we know that He lives in us. (1 John 3:24)

[John 19:25-27, ESV]

25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **“Woman, behold, your son!”** 27 Then he said to the disciple, **“Behold, your mother!”** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Set aside intentional time to meet with Jesus at The Cross.

2. Put yourself second: give something and forgive someone.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Have you seen any infomercials (or Instagram ads), and in your experience, do you find that they deliver on what they promise? Share an example, if you have one.
2. Why do you think it's easy to love at a distance? How have you seen this take place culturally?
3. Who, in your sphere, are your "brothers and sisters"? What does it look like to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters?
4. Why do you think Jesus doesn't say directly "I love you" to anyone in the New Testament? How did he specifically communicate about love? (i.e. "love one another as I have loved you") (Consider what John says in 1 John 3:16-24)
5. What tension lies in "telling the truth" versus "belonging to the truth" and living in it? What has been your relational experience with that?
6. Who do you love, and are there tiers to it? Where does our heart lead us when we follow it? (Jeremiah 17:9)
7. When did you last go to The Cross? How do we demonstrate the love of Jesus from that place?
8. According to John 3:16-17, how did Jesus give and forgive?
9. Who do you need to give, and who do you need to forgive?
10. How do we know that He lives in us? What would a newfound confidence look like?
11. How did John the apostle have the authority to talk about this kind of love? Why do you think he was known as ***the disciple whom Jesus loved***?
12. What does love in action look like for you or your family this week?