



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: 1 John 3:11-24

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: 1 John 3:11-24

Sermon Summary:

God's children are a product of his love, & therefore should be people who share God's love with others. John says we should love one another. He reminds his readers & us what that love looks like: to lay down our lives for others as Jesus laid down his life for us. Sometimes we don't love others as we should, so John reminds us that love is an action & not just nice words. But what happens when we have loved others well but feel we have not loved them enough? How do they deal with the resulting feelings of inadequacy & incapability? God assures them that he knows all things & that they should do what they can, trust him & leave the rest to him.

Discussion:

1. Read 1 Jn. 3:1, 11 & Jn. 13:14-15. All these verses are helpful to our understanding of God, his motives towards us & his expectation of those who follow Jesus. But are these verses helpful to us when we have been hurt by a fellow-believer & are left with the sting of that hurt? If yes, why? If not, what is our challenge?
2. Have you ever been with a hurting person who you're trying to restore back to normalcy? What were the challenges you faced? Was it as simple as quoting verses to them & they just snapped back to their

normal self? If not, what did it take? How about if you reverse the roles & you were the one being helped. What helped you be restored? What helped you to be able to love again?

3. In verses 16-17, John explains what love looks like in practicality with Jesus as our prime example. The practicality of v. 17 tells us that loving one another means we meet the needs of hurting & give them what we can. Discuss together the things that we can give?
4. The needs that surround us at times are overwhelming, & we may feel we have not done enough when in fact we have. Our hearts may even condemn us (vv. 19-20). How does John reassure those who are feeling this kind of 'inadequacy'?
5. Talk with one another about how 'God calls us to do what we can & leave the rest to him' & that 'Reassurance cannot come from within us (our heart), but must come from God.'
6. The confidence we receive from God is so important because without it our love for others is affected & our prayer life is affected. Talk about times when your heart's lack of confidence because you thought you'd done wrong affected your prayer life.

End with Prayer.

- Pray for each one to be free to love others as Jesus loved us
- Pray for one another's concerns.