



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: 1 John 4:7-16

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. (NIV)

Sermon Summary:

The world talks a lot about love, sings songs about love, and has many definitions about what love is. But how does the Bible view love? John's first letter gives us a clear view of what love is. God is love and love comes from God. In John's view, love does not originate with us but from God. God showed his love to us by sending his one and only Son to be the sacrifice for our sins and to give us life. God loved us first and based on this we are to love other believers in Christ. Our loving other Christians is the goal of God's love. When we love one another, God lives in us and his love finds its goal. God loved us according to our need, so when we love one another, it should meet other people's needs. Let us understand and try to appreciate the God's love for us. While knowing and relying on God's love we will be able to love one another as we should.

Discussion:

1. John says "God is love." Why is it wrong to say "love is God?"
2. How is verse 7 (everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God) misunderstood by people? How should we understand it?
3. In the verses above we are not exhorted to love God. Why do you think this is the case?
4. How can it be said that God's love is included in his judgement and punishment? What is the example that John gives?
5. People go through difficult and painful experiences. How would you share with someone going through a painful experience that God loves them?
6. How can we let God's love be the directing force and motivation in our living and interaction with fellow believers?

End with Prayer