

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Background

Today we launch a new series covering the ways in which believers should live with "one another." Over the next four weeks, we will dive into several of the New Testament "one another" passages to find clear applications so that our daily lives will reflect the love, forgiveness, encouragement, and care for others as Christ has shown us.

Service Notes

The Basis of Loving One Another:

1.	The	_ of love.
2.	The	_ of love.
3.	The	_ of love.
Starting Points:		

1. _______ one another. 2. _______ one another. 3. _______ one another.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The "Getting Started" section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the "Talk it Over" section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the "Live it Out" section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

What stood out to you in this week's sermon? What is one thought from the message that made you hopeful? What prompted questions?

Talk it Over

- Read again 1 John 4:7-12. Why is knowing the source of love foundational for obeying the command to love one another (vs. 7-8)? How does the "picture" of God's love influence the way we are to love one another (vs. 9-10)? How is love "perfected" or made "complete" in us when we love one another (vs. 12)?
- Read John 13:34-35. In his final conversations with the disciples, Jesus gave a new command to love one other as He loved them. In addition to His sacrificial death, what are other examples of Jesus demonstrating His love for His disciples and others? What would loving those around us like Jesus look like in our lives today?
- Read Romans 12:9-21. What does it mean to "outdo" each other by showing honor (vs. 10? What else does this passage instruct believers to do that could demonstrate love and honor to others? What do you find in this passage that is counter-cultural to our society today? Why is putting these instructions to practice so difficult at times?

Live it Out

Who is the one person (perhaps incredibly different from you) that you need intentionally demonstrate Christlike love to this week? What is one practical way you can do this?

