

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 14, 2021

Passage: 1 John 4:7-21

Memory Passage: 1 John 4:9-10

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:7-21.** This week's text recapitulates and expands on themes we have already seen, as well as introduces new ideas. Spend today examining the text and recording what you find. Look for repeated words, phrases, or ideas. Identify patterns of thought. Take note of repeated, expanded, and new ideas. Recognize any contrasts or comparisons John makes. Determine the structure (i.e., what are the main & supporting ideas). Etc.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:7-21.** Explain in detail the contrast found in vs. 7-8.

(b) What does it mean to say "God is love" (Is He more than love? Only love? How does God's love exist in perfection with His other attributes?)

(c) What three reasons does John give for God sending His Son into the world (cf. vs. 9, 10, & 14)?

(d) In what ways does God's sending His Son directly affect your life (vs. 7-11)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:7-21.** If "no one has ever seen God" (v. 11), how can anyone know God?

(b) What do you learn about "abiding" in these verses? What of these ideas about abiding are new to John's letter?

(c) What is the cause ("by this") and result ("so that") of love being perfected in us (vs. 16-17).

(d) What is the reason ("because") for our confidence on judgment day (v. 17)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:7-21.** Explain the three uses of "perfected" (vs. 12, 17, 18). What does "perfected" mean, how is it accomplished, and what/who is perfected in each case?

(b) What does John mean by "perfect" love, and how does it "cast out fear"?

(c) In what way does “fear have to do with judgment” (v. 18)?

(d) Why is it impossible to love God, who is unseen, if we hate our seen brother or sister?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:7-21.** What benefits are you reaping from God’s love being perfected in you (cf. the results mentioned in vs. 17 & 18)? In what ways are you *not* benefiting from these results, and why do you think this is true?

(b) What fears do you have, what damage are these fears causing, and how do vs. 7-21 help you overcome these fears?

(c) In what ways do you need to repent from hating other believers (remember that for John, not loving is equivalent to hating)? How can 4:7-22 help you begin actively loving believers in ways you are not loving now?

(d) Everyone can increase in their love for others. In what ways will your life change as you more actively love other believers and experience God’s love perfected in you as a greater reality?

(e) How does knowing that God has loved you enable and fuel your love for others, even if you find them unlovable?

DATE: November 14, 2021

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God Is Love