

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 24, 2005

Passage: 1 John 4:7-16

Memory Passage: 1 John 4:7-8 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 4:7-16.** How many times does John tell us to “love one another” in these verses?
- (b) Look at 1 John 2:7-11. What is the old commandment that John is referring to (Leviticus 19:18, 34)? What is the new commandment that we have received (John 13:34-35)? What is the difference in these?
- (c) Is John the only one who emphasizes this (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22)?
- (d) In 1 John 3:10-18, what did John conclude about the one who does not love his brother? What kind of love is he talking about?
- (e) In 1 John 4:7-16, *whose* love does John focus on? What does this tell us about why we should love one another?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 4:7-8 and Romans 13:8-10. Talk about how love fulfills the law. How is this a “new” commandment? Read John 13:34-35 together and talk about the love of Jesus. Pray Ephesians 3:17-19 together. Ask that your eyes might be opened this week to understand more about God’s love for you.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 4:7-8.** What is the first reason that John tells us to love one another?
- (b) What has John already told us about the nature of God (1 John 1:5)? What attribute of God is he emphasizing by this?
- (c) Read Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 86:5-7; and Jeremiah 31:3. What do these OT passages tell us about God’s love?
- (d) What do we see about God’s love, even for the non-believer (Ezekiel 33:11)? How is the believer’s love for the non-believer to be like God’s (Matthew 5:44-48)?
- (e) What two things are true about the person who has this love?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 4:7-8 and Exodus 34:6-7. Talk together about some of the attributes of God. Is the love of God an essential attribute? Is His love in the NT different from the OT? Pray together for someone who does not understand the love of God.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 4:9-10.** What is the second reason John tells us to love one another? What did God do for us?
- (b) How does Paul describe this “gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15)? What has John already said about this love in 1 John 3:1?
- (c) How does John describe our response to God before He loved us? Read Romans 5:6-10 and Colossians 1:21-22. What terms does Paul use to describe our condition before we were believers?
- (d) What did Jesus become for us? What does this word mean? How much did God love us? How should this affect the way we love others? Should we wait until they love us first (Matthew 5:46-48)?

(e) How would the Gnostic denial of Jesus dying on the cross affect the love of God? Why is this an essential doctrine of Christianity?

(f) *Family*: Read John 4:9-11 and Romans 5:6-10. Talk together about how God loved us *before* we ever loved Him. What does this teach us about the nature of salvation and coming to Christ? Thank God for sending His Son to die on our behalf.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:11-12.** What truth does he begin by reminding us of? How is this love *perfected* in us?

(b) Compare this with what John told us in his gospel (John 1:18)? How did God make the news of His grace and salvation plain to us according to this verse?

(c) How can people today know that God exists and that He sent His son? One author has written, “The love of God displayed in believers is the strongest apologetic that God has in the world.” What does he mean by this? Is this what John is telling us in these verses?

(d) Read 1 John 3:16-18 again. How should we love each other?

(e) *Family*: Read 1 John 4:11-12 and 1 John 3:16-18. Talk about how our love testifies to the existence of God and to His love. What kind of love is John talking about – sentimental or practical? Which was God’s love? Think about a practical way (“in deed and in truth”) that you can show God’s love to someone this week. Pray together for someone who needs to be touched by God’s love through you.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 4:13-16.** How is God’s love “*perfected* in us?” Why didn’t John say *by us*? How is this an evidence of God’s life in us?

(b) What aspect of Christianity does John emphasize in verses 13, 15, and 16 (John 14:17-18)? What is the mystery that Paul speaks about in Colossians 1:26-27?

(c) Compare 1 John 4:13 with Romans 5:5. *Where* does our ability to love come from?

(d) What should we “testify” about according to 1 John 4:14? Who should we present the gospel to (1 John 2:2; John 1:29; 4:42; Mark 16:15)?

(e) In verse 15, who is a child of God? Does our love *make* us Christians? What does (Romans 10:9-13) say?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 John 4:13-16. Talk about the importance of the Holy Spirit abiding in us. What difference does this make in our ability to love? What if God did not give His spirit to believers? Talk about what it means to “abide” in love. Pray that each person can learn to live in His love each day.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. What should motivate us to love one another? How should knowing who God is affect our love? How does what Jesus did for us tell us about God’s love? How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit enable us to love others in this way? Pray that the teaching of God’s Word tomorrow might help all to see God’s love more clearly so that we will love others as He has loved us.