
CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- When has someone offended you?
- How did you handle that offense?

TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

This week, we're in the third part of our series *With God*.

This week, we're reading John's first letter to his churches, reminding us that loving God means loving each other, and that *we are called to have a hate-defying love for each other*.

EMBRACING LOVE

READ: 1 John 4:7-12

DISCUSS: For John, how do we know what love is?

John roots love in God giving his Son for us, even when we were sinners, so that we could have life. If we love one another the way God has loved us, his presence is made real in us.

DEFYING HATE

READ: 1 John 4:13-21

DISCUSS: What does John think it looks like to love God?

If we truly love God, that means loving our brothers and sisters the way he has loved them: graciously, fully, and patiently.

GRACE *SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

Read 1 John 4:9, slowly.

Think about what God has done for you in Christ, both in the Gospel story and in your own life. What kind of God is your God?

CHANGE *APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- Is there anyone you need to forgive?
 - Is there anyone whose forgiveness you need to seek?
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PRAYER *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Worship God for the love He's shown by sending his Son.
- Ask God to fill you with His Spirit so that you can live fully in love for your brothers and sisters and have the strength to forgive and be forgiven.