



# Life Group Discussion Guide

## October 12: 1 John 4:7-18 --- Truth About Love

### Icebreaker:

Think of someone in your life who consistently loves others well. What specific things do they do that make their love feel genuine?

### Discussion Questions:

*Leaders: Every group is different! As you prepare, choose the questions that best fit your group and focus on the ones that spark meaningful conversation. Don't rush—depth is better than distance. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion!*

1. Read **1 John 4:7-18**.
  - a. What stands out to you from this passage?
  - b. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?
2. 1 John 4:8 says "God is love." It does not say "Love is God" or "God is loving."
  - a. Why is it so important to understand this difference?
  - b. How does understanding this difference help us better know God's love.
3. You can sum up the way that Jesus loves us through the word 'sacrifice.'
  - a. How does this definition challenge the world's version of love focused on feelings or self-expression?
  - b. How does understanding Jesus' sacrificial love change or challenge the way you express love in your own life?
4. Read **1 John 4:7, Psalm 139:17-18, and Ephesians 3:17-19**.
  - a. Why is it difficult at times to *receive* God's love instead of trying to earn it?
  - b. How does understanding God's constant thoughts about you shape the way you understand His love for you?
  - c. How does truly believing that identity change the way you relate to God and others?

5. Read **1 John 4:12** and **John 13:35**. God is revealed to others through the way we love.
  - a. Can you think of a time when you experienced the love of God through the way someone else expressed love?
  - b. Can you think of a time when God's love was revealed to you through the way you showed love to someone?
6. Dave talked about counterfeit loves that can creep into our lives (fear, shame pride, etc.).
  - a. How does maturing in God's love help us cast aside these counterfeits?
7. Read the following passages about the love of God and fearing God. As you do, think about how fear and awe of God help us understand His love. Read **Proverbs 9:10**, **Philippians 2:12-13** and **1 John 4:18**
  - a. What is the difference between a fear that pushes us away from God and a reverent awe that draws us closer?
  - b. How do these passages lead you to understand the power of God's love?
8. **Reflection and Application:**
  - a. How is God calling you to live in His love this week?
  - b. What is an area that you would like to grow in when it comes to living in God's love?
  - c. Dave shared the power of pray when it comes to seeking to live from God's love.
    - i. What is one specific way that each of us can pray this week to ask God to help us live in His love?
    - ii. Close by praying together asking God to help you live in His love.
    - iii. Pray the Tim Keller Prayer that Dave shared: ***"Father, thank you for the grace that has preserved my life to this moment. Now give me enough love for this day — a sense of love from you (so I'm not scared or driven), a welling up of love for you (so I'm not proud or selfish), and a resulting love for others (so I am not cold or distracted)."***