

1 John: 1 John 4:7-21
Discussion Guide, September 27, 2020
Next week's text: 1 John 5:1-12

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. - 1 John 4:4*

- In what way did you consider your positive and negative influences this past week?

OPEN:

- How would you define love?
- What is the best example (that you have witnessed) of what it means to biblically love one another?
 - o What made it so special?

READ and ASK: 1 John 4:7-21

- What is the overarching instruction of this passage?
- What is the relationship between loving others and knowing God?
 - o How does that work?
- What was God's great display of love?
 - o How does that inspire you to love others?
 - o While motivating with punishment can have its place, how is this a different (and even better) motivator?
- How are Christians like Jesus? (4:17)
- Many think it is easier to love God than to love other Christians. How does 4:20 challenge this mindset?

APPLY:

- What stands out to you most from this passage? Why?
- How is your love for God shown in how you love other Christians?

- What makes it difficult for you to love others?
- When you pause and let yourself gaze from the foot of the cross, how are you motivated?
 - o Towards forgiving others?
 - o Towards serving others?
- How does 4:18 speak to you in this season?
- NEXT STEP: How can you demonstrate your love for others this week?
 - o If you want to do a better job of loving others, how do you need to go about doing that?

Memory Work: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. - 1 John 4:9-11