

Leaders: In an ongoing effort to give you small group questions that are helpful to produce deep, honest, open sharing, we're using 3 headings: Learn, Practice, Grow. They are intentionally laid out to move from discussion about the text and sermon to application and finally to get to (either during large group and/or accountability) tangible points of change and growth in people's lives. As a reminder, you are not expected to always use every question, or even go in order. Take what helps your group, rearrange as needed, and ask God to lead!

LEARN

Read 1 John 4:13-21 together. What main points from the passage and from the sermon stand out to you?
(Leaders: Take a moment to encourage your group to listen to the sermons with an ear for what they were gripped by, or maybe are still wrestling with, and prepare ahead on their own as this is always the open-ended starting point for discussion time)

How can a Christian have rock solid assurance that God loves them?
(v. 13-16, and v. 9-10. It's found in the Father sending the Son to die in our place, for our sin)

What is John saying in verse 19?
(Christians have godly "agape" love only because God first loved us. Our testimonies need to resound with God's initiation in our lives of his love)

PRACTICE

What difference should this exposition of God's love (v. 13-18) for us make in our lives? What difference have you seen it make in your life?

How has fear been cast out of your heart through the love of God?
(Encourage specific examples. "_____ has been my fear, and God has driven (or is driving) it out")

How do you personally practice "believing the love God has for us" in your walk with Christ?
(i.e. what do people do to remind themselves of God's love? Examples could include worship songs, prayers of thanksgiving for God's love, reading the Word, being at church, rehearsing the gospel to ourselves, and more)

CHANGE

Do you filter the claim "God loves you" through your life experiences? How can you change so that you filter your life through the rock solid truth of his love for you in Jesus?
(Reject wrong definitions of love based on circumstances, ask God for help in believing the gospel more deeply so it affects how you interpret your life)

Are there fears in your heart that are punishing you as a Christian (physically, mentally, spiritually)? What are they?
Commit to pray for one another as fears are shared, that God's perfect love would cast all fear out of our hearts.

What is your proof that you love God? Is your life showing that proof on an ongoing basis?
(v. 21 – the proof is that a person who loves God must, and will, love their Christian family)