

The Abiding Life

Discussion Guide

Week of October 8 - **Captivated & Compelled by Love**

Scripture verse: 1 John 3:11-24

LOOKING BACK:

1. Last week we planned to look at the areas in our life where we are grieving the Lord, focusing on not indulging in anything Jesus came to destroy.
2. Did you and the person you paired with last week for accountability stay in touch to identify the issues and directly address them?
3. What changes did you make and what did this look like in your daily life?

OPENING QUESTION:

Think for a minute about what similarities life and love have? Conversely, what do hate and death have in common? Share in the group the similarities you see for both pairs.

LOOKING UP:

1. Ask for two volunteers to read from 1 John 3. Have the first person read 1 John 3:11-18, ask the second person to read verses 19-24.
2. From our previous readings, who has John said are our brothers and sisters?
3. Going through the passage as a group, point out each time the word 'love' is used and in what context it's given.
4. What is the overarching message in this passage? What are the two commands given? (v. 23)
5. How do we know what love is? (1 John 3:16)

READ THE PASSAGE

1 John 3:11-24

Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about God?
4. What does this teach us about people?

RE-READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions

LOOKING FORWARD:

1. Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice in showing His love for us.
2. We've been called to believe in Jesus and love one another. Let's discuss, as a group, tangible ways to love others this week.
3. Brainstorm ideas for showing love in three categories:
 - a. Love for our family
 - b. Love for our neighbors (actual neighbors!)
 - c. Love for our non-believer neighbors (those we encounter on a daily basis.)
4. Before you leave today, have a plan in place for how you'll show tangible love to others so they might come to know the One who showed us love by dying for our sins.