

The Abiding Life...

Discussion Guide

Week of October 22 - **"Our Love Relationship with God"**

Scripture verse: 1 John 4:7-5:5

LOOKING BACK:

Last week ...You were asked to pray each day this week asking God to bring to mind areas where you might be following false prophets. How did you do praying? Talk about what you did to keep on track to pray daily. Did you set an alarm or reminder on your phone or ask a friend to join you? What kept you on target? What roadblocks did you experience in praying?

OPENING QUESTION: We have many ways we describe love. If you asked different people you would likely get many ideas about love but not likely land on a similar definition. How does this passage define God's love? (God's love is defined by action rather passivity)

LOOKING UP:

1. What is meant by John's statement, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear." Consider relationship where fear might be found. [Parent, boyfriend/girlfriend, friendship, relative, sibling]
2. Who do you find hard to love? What might be at the heart of that feeling?
3. Ask a willing person to pray something like this, "Lord, teach us how to love the way you showed us. Open our eyes to ways we can obey you by loving others, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ."

4. Then ask someone new to read the passage below. Then answer the first 2 questions listed in the black square below.

<p>READ THE PASSAGE 1 John 4:7-5:5</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<p>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?</p>	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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LOOKING FORWARD:

1. First, ask someone new to pray something like this,
"Holy Spirit, we invite you to examine our hearts. Please bring to mind some person in our life that we have a hard time loving (because of a past hurt they have inflicted on us). Help me obey you by reconciling that hurt and have a conversation with him/her this week."
Next, spend 2 minutes listening to the Holy Spirit quietly. See who the Lord reveals to your mind.
2. Make a plan tonight with one other person in the group to seek out this person. Practice the conversation you intend to have. If necessary, meet with your partner to discuss next steps.