



Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

Week 3: God's Graphic Love

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **1 John 4:7-21**
- MEMORY VERSE: **1 John 4:18**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTER: 7 (Next week chapter 8)
- HOMEWORK: Study Buddy Chat / Sign up for blog updates at Bruxy.com

APPETIZER: God is Love

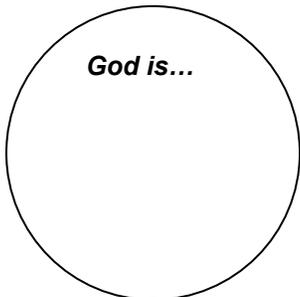
JESUS IS GOD WITH US, COME TO



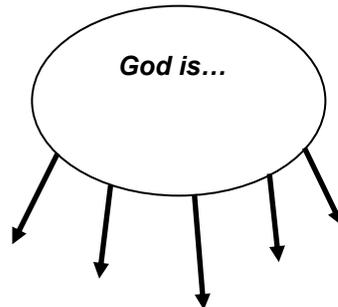
SO WE CAN SHARE IN GOD'S LIFE.

If God is love...

NOT THIS:



BUT THIS:



DINE IN: The Power of Perfect Love

1 John 4:7-21

Who trusted God was love indeed,
 And love Creation's final law;
 Tho' Nature, red in tooth and claw,
 With raving, shriek'd against his creed.
 ~ Alfred Lord Tennyson, In Memoriam A.H.H. (1849)

Romans 5:8-10
 Isaiah 49:13-16
 2 Corinthians 5:19

TAKE OUT: God's Deeply Personal Love

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
 ~ The Apostle Paul (Galatians 2:20)

STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY [Don't try to cover all of it]:

- What do you think about the idea that "God is love"?
- If you believe in God, do you think God loves you? Me? Why? What evidence do you base your opinion on? (Nature, Scripture, and Religion offer conflicting evidence on this point.)
- Jesus claims to show us what God is like, since he is God's essence in human form. (John 14:7-9; Hebrews 1:3) This is good news, because Jesus gives us evidence that "God is love" (1 John 4:8, 16) and that God loves *us* to death, even when we are at our worst (Romans 5:8-10; 1 John 3:16; Galatians 2:20).
- Do you think you struggle, even subconsciously, with any fear? Fear of not being accepted or liked or of being judged, by God or by others? Jesus came to show us God's perfect love, and "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).
- Jesus SHOWS US that the Creator of all things, the highest authority in this universe, the one who defines reality... loves us, loves *you*. He can't help himself, like a mother instinctively loves her newborn child. God loves what he creates. (Isaiah 49:13-16)
- Because God loves you, he pursues you, the way someone looks for something or someone valuable to them (possibly refer to Luke 15 where Jesus tells the stories of the lost coin, lost sheep, and lost son.) Do you think letting that truth sink in could make a difference in your life? If so, how?

NEXT WEEK: SAVE US from sin

Read chapter 8 in *(re)union*.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. How is your homework coming? Memory verse? Study buddy? Blog sign up?
2. Review Sunday's message. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **1 John 4:7-21**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. "God is love." Talk about how these three words (re)define our understanding of everything God is and does.
 - c. Loving one another like Jesus is a paramount trait of God's true children. Talk about some specific ways this goes beyond being "nice people."
 - d. Why and how does perfect love cast out fear?
 - e. The emphasis of the horizontal love in this passage is on loving our fellow Christians more than on loving the world or our enemies. Why do you think that is?
 - f. Are you sometimes guilty of being a "liar" according to verse 20? Is there anything you need to do now to get your heart and/or relationships realigned with truth?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Reflect back over 3-f above. Talk about ways you can help each other.
5. Pray for your Study Buddies, and for yourselves, that you might grow deeply through this series in your understanding of and ability to communicate the gospel.

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Quotes

Welcome to part 3 in our series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus! Today's Message is about how Jesus shows us God's perfect love.

In the fourth chapter of 1 John, the apostle writes...

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

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.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.

For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.