

Living Love

*Relationships
as the Lord
designed them to be*

Living Love

Relationships as the Lord Designed Them

It would seem that we know all about love. Imagine trying to count all of the songs, books and movies made about love. There are countless advisors, counselors and therapists trying to heal broken relationships. And yet, with all of that, love seems to remain a mystery for many people.

All of the ways that the word love gets used just add to the confusion. We say things like "I love pizza," "I love spring," "I love my wife," "I love naps," "I love you." All of those can't mean the same thing, can they?

Does all of this matter at all for the disciple of Jesus? Is understanding love important? Absolutely!

We are told by Jesus that love is the foundation of the Law and Prophets. (Matt. 22:37-40). John tells us that anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love. (1 John 4:8). Jesus also said that people will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. (John 13:35) It seems that understanding and living this love is crucial for a Christian.

The word of God is Life's Operating Manual. He created us and has a lot to say about how He expects love to impact and shape our lives.

God designed our relationships. He defined love for us. He gave us examples throughout history of how this love is supposed to work. And God came in human form to live love in His relationship with us. We have so much to learn from His teaching and examples.

There are scriptures we will read and study in this class, but let's go beyond simply learning about love and let His word shape our hearts and lives in the relationships we each have with Him and with each other, as well as everyone else in our lives.

I am really looking forward to learning together with you.

VKR

Living Love

Outline for the Study

December 2018 - February 2019

- ◆ Introduction (Lessons 1-3)
 - ◆ Significance of Love
 - ◆ Don't we already know all about Love?
 - ◆ Defining Words and Concepts

- ◆ Love Defined (Lessons 4-16)
 - ◆ *1 Corinthians 13*
 - ◆ Love is the Key
 - ◆ What Love is and is not
 - ◆ Love Never Fails!

- ◆ Love in Action (Lessons 17-26)
 - ◆ By This We Know... (1 John)
 - ◆ Examples from Scripture
 - ◆ 2 John & 3 John
 - ◆ Jesus Living Love

Lesson 1

Significance of Love

Before we get into the study of Living Love, let's talk about whether it matters at all. Why should we care about love? Does God care about it?

Questions and points to think about

★ Is it necessary for the disciple of Jesus to understand and live love? Explain.

★ Does God ever mention the significance of love in the scriptures? If so, list at least 2 places.

★ Let's consider what we can learn from these passages of scripture.

★ Matthew 22:34-40 (Mark 12:28-34) Read these verses. What is the Lord saying? How important is love?

★ Had they ever been told this before? If so, where?

★ John 13:34-35 What role does love play here? How does that work? Why is this love observable?

★ 1 John 3:14 How important is love to us as described in these verses?

★ 1 John 4:7-8 What are the important connections made here about love?

A couple of summary questions to think about:

★ Is love optional for the disciple? Explain.

★ How is love connected with knowing God?

Lesson 2

Don't We Already Know All About Love?

We spend our whole lives talking about and hearing about love. Imagine what would be left of our arts if anything referring to love was removed. People “fall into” and “fall out of” love. “Love makes the world go around.” “Love is a many splendored thing.” With all of this exposure, one would think we have it all figured out. But, is that really so?

Questions and points to think about

★ Look through a newspaper or your favorite magazine or search the internet for references to love. Pick out a few recent mentions in the media about love. What is each one talking about?

★ Look up in a dictionary the definition of love. Write down what you find.

★ Love has been described as a biological or psychological thing. See if you can find a definition of love from biology or psychology.

★ If we put all of these things together, does that make a clear picture of what love is? What is the problem?

★ In our last lesson, we learned that God is love. To understand one we need to learn the other. Does all of the information in this lesson help us to know God? Explain.

★ Who benefits from all of this confusion about love? Explain.

Lesson 3

Defining Words and Concepts

In Lesson 1 we established that understanding and living love is essential for a Christian to comply with the Lord's design and to experience His blessings now and for eternity. In Lesson 2 we showed how confused the understanding of love is all around us. The answer for the meaning of love as God designed it can only be found in His word. We need to define the words we will be using and also talk about the basic contexts that define how this love is realized.

Questions and points to think about

★ In English, one word "love" is used for many concepts. In the Greek language in which the New Testament was originally written, there are 4 words that are translated into English as "love." (Not all of these words are found in the New Testament) Look up what those words are and what they mean and find an example in the scripture. (For extra points, put them in the order of how often they are used.)

★ Word 1:

★ Word 2:

★ Word 3:

★ Word 4:

★ Which of these words describes the love that a child of God should be experiencing? Why?

★ Which of these words is used in Matthew 22:37-39? It is the one we will focus our study on for the rest of the quarter.

Defining Contexts and Concepts about Love

★ I believe the following statement is important in truly understanding love:

Love is only realized in the context of a relationship with another person.

What do you think?

Lesson 4

Love is the Key

There are many places in the New Testament where the Lord and His disciples teach and show love. 1 Corinthians 13 is a place that provides a detailed description of the love that God expects of us in our relationships. As we study this chapter, we will be referring to many other scriptures to help us understand love.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ To fully understand this passage we need to consider its context. Look at the chapters right before and after 1 Corinthians 13. What are the subjects of these chapters?

- ★ How does chapter 13 fit in with its context?

- ★ Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. This introduction to the chapter establishes how significant love is in our service to God and each other. What is the activity described in each of these verses?
 - ★ verse 1:

 - ★ verse 2:

 - ★ verse 3:

★ Reread each of these verses. What are the consequences if love is not involved.

★ verse 1:

★ verse 2:

★ verse 3:

★ What is the point that Paul is making?

★ What other scriptures can you find that are similar?

★ Do we still have a problem with this today? Explain

Lesson 5

Facets of Love

“Love is patient and kind...”

1 Corinthians 13:4 (part 1)

1 Corinthians 13 is a chapter that has a detailed description of this love. Verses 4-8 of this chapter discuss many facets of love. One thing to keep in mind is that this is a package deal. All of these facets are part of what love is. In the next several lessons we will look in some detail at these facets.

Questions and points to think about

★ Read verse 4. What is the first aspect of love that is mentioned?

★ What does this mean?

★ How do other translations put this?

★ What are some other passages in the scriptures that use this word? How do they help us to understand this?

★ Describe how this facet of love works in a relationship.

★ What is the second facet of love mentioned in verse 4?

★ What does this mean?

★ How do other translations put this?

★ What are some other passages in the scriptures that use this word? How do they help us to understand this?

★ Describe how this facet of love works in a relationship.

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ As mentioned earlier, this love is only realized in a relationship with another person and the only way we learn love is to practice it in a relationship. Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love is patient with _____

★ Love is kind toward _____

★ During this week pay special attention to applying and learning these things in this relationship.

Lesson 6

Facets of Love

“... love does not envy or boast ...”

1 Corinthians 13:4 (part 2)

The first two facets of love we studied in the last lesson were some of the things that love is. Now we begin a series describing some things that love is not. Keep in mind as we study these things about love that the audience for 1 Corinthians was Christians. Also, it is important to remember the facets we have already studied. They are all part of what this love is all about.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read verse 4 again. What is the first aspect mentioned that is not part of this love?

- ★ What does this mean?

- ★ How do other translations put this?

- ★ What are some other passages in the scriptures that use this word? How do they help us to understand this?

- ★ Describe how this facet of love works in a relationship.

★ Read verse 4 again. What is the second thing listed that is not a part of this love?

★ What does this mean?

★ How do other translations put this?

★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ Describe how this shows up in a relationship.

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love does not envy with _____

★ Love does not boast with _____

During this week pay special attention to applying and learning these aspects of love in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind...”

Lesson 7

Facets of Love

“... love ... is not arrogant or rude.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-5a

In this lesson we look at the third and fourth in the series of things that are not a part of this agape love. These aspects are closely related, but different from the last one “...love does not boast...” Also, it is important to remember the facets we have already studied. They are all part of what this love is all about.

It is easy to dismiss or overlook these facets of love as just a part of a long list. Learning to love is a very personal thing. It comes from our hearts with a decision to allow God to work in us and to pay close attention to what He wants. Each of these points applies to each of us as we learn love.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read verse 4 again. What is the third thing listed that is not a part of this love?

- ★ What does this mean?

- ★ How do other translations put this?

- ★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

- ★ How does this appear in a relationship?

★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. What is the first thing listed in verse 5 that is not a part of this agape love?

★ What does this mean?

★ How do other translations put this?

★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ How does this appear in a relationship?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love is not arrogant with _____

★ Love does not behave rudely with _____

During this week pay special attention to applying and learning these aspects of love in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast...”

Lesson 8

Facets of Love

“... love ... does not insist on its own way;”

1 Corinthians 13:5 (part 2)

The culture in which we live is infused with this self-seeking attitude. This is directly counter to the concept of love and the consequences are far reaching. Let's see what the bible says about this and observe the implications for us in our relationships. Remember that the most important relationship we have is with God.

Questions and points to think about

★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. What is the second thing listed in verse 5 that is not a part of this love?

★ What does this mean to *“insist on its own way?”*

★ How do other translations put this?

★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ What does *“insisting on its own way”* do to a relationship?

★ Do we see any evidence of this attitude in the world around us?
What are a couple of examples?

★ Is this something we need to be concerned about in our relationships in the church? Why?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love does not insist on its own way with _____

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.”

Lesson 9

Facets of Love

“... love ... is not irritable,”

1 Corinthians 13:5 (part 3)

The list continues of aspects that are not part of this love that is being described for us here in 1 Corinthians 13. Let's learn about what this is and consider the implications for us in our relationships. Remember that the most important relationship we have is with God.

Questions and points to think about

★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. What is the third thing listed in verse 5 that is not a part of this love?

★ What does this mean?

★ How do other translations put this?

★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ What does being irritable do to a relationship?

★ Do we see any evidence of this attitude in the world around us?
What are a couple of examples?

★ Is this something we need to be concerned about in our relationships with each other or with God? Why?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love is irritable with _____

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way;...”

Lesson 10

Facets of Love

“... love ... is not resentful;”

1 Corinthians 13:5 (part 4)

Verse 5 of this chapter ends with something else that is not a part of this love. Depending on the translation we are reading, we might read right past this phrase and miss the point. There is something here that is a common challenge for those who are learning to love.

Questions and points to think about

★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. What is the last thing listed in verse 5 that is not a part of this love?

★ What does this mean?

★ How do other translations put this?

★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ What does keeping an account of wrongs do to a relationship?

★ Is this a common problem?

★ Why is this such a difficult thing?

★ Which people are we to treat this way?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love does not keep an account of wrongs by _____

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable...”

Lesson 11

Facets of Love

“Love ... does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”

1 Corinthians 13:6

In this verse an aspect of behavior is shown to us that is not a part of love. We are then given the behavior that should replace it. This is another point that might seem obvious, but there is more to it. Remember that love only exists in the context of a relationship.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:6. What behavior is not a part of this love? What behavior is a part of this love?

- ★ What does it mean to rejoice in wrongdoing?

- ★ What does it mean to rejoice with the truth?

- ★ How do other translations put this?

- ★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

- ★ How does rejoicing in wrongdoing work in a relationship?

★ Is this a common problem?

★ How can we rejoice with the truth in a relationship?

★ How does this fit with Matthew 5:44-48?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing with _____ but rejoices with the truth with _____.

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;...”

Lesson 12

Facets of Love

“Love ... bears all things,...”

1 Corinthians 13:7a

We are coming toward the end of this beautiful list describing what this “agape” love is all about. Verse 7 is presented almost like a summary from a different perspective. Some of the earlier points are connected but I marvel at how this verse presents these truths about love in something like a summary.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:7. What do you notice about any patterns in this verse?

- ★ Let’s focus on the first phrase in this verse, “bears all things.” What do you think this means? (hint: this is about more than just patience)

- ★ How do other translations put this?

- ★ Consider these verses. How might they help us understand what this is talking about?
 - ★ Proverbs 10:12
 - ★ 1 Peter 4:8

★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ How does “bearing all things” work in a relationship?

★ Is this a challenge? Explain.

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love bears all things with _____
Love (covers, supports and protects) the one I love.

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.”

Lesson 13

Facets of Love

“Love ... believes all things,...”

1 Corinthians 13:7b

The second phrase in this verse continues a beautiful picture of the richness of what love does. Remember to keep these teachings in the context of a relationship with another person.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:7. Remember our discussion in the last lesson about the significance of the patterns found in this verse.

- ★ The second phrase in this verse is *“believes all things.”* What is this talking about? (Remember to keep it in the context of a relationship.)

- ★ How do other translations put this?

- ★ Consider this verses. How does it help us understand what this is talking about?
 - ★ Philippians 1:9-10

- ★ Can you think of any other passages of scripture that can help us understand what this is talking about?

★ Is “believing all things” difficult in a relationship? Explain.

★ How can we learn to “believe all things” in our relationships?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love believes all things with _____
Love (trusts, expects the best of) the one I love.

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things...”

Lesson 14

Facets of Love

“Love ... hopes all things,...”

1 Corinthians 13:7c

Studying about love in this verse and the whole chapter, it is more and more apparent that this love has nothing to do with an emotional response to circumstances. It is commitment to the welfare of the one who is loved. This third phrase of verse 7 continues that point.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:7. Remember our discussion in the last lesson about the significance of the patterns found in this verse.
- ★ The third phrase in this verse is *“hopes all things.”* How do we typically use the word *“hope”* in our everyday conversation?
- ★ Is this the way in which the New Testament uses the word *“hope”*? Explain.
- ★ The word that is translated *“hope”* in 1 Corinthians 13:7 is also found in these three verses. Find the word into which it is translated in each verse. How does this help us understand what this word means?
 - ★ Hebrews 11:1
 - ★ 2 Corinthians 1:10
 - ★ 2 Corinthians 1:13

★ Is “hoping all things” difficult in a relationship? Explain.

★ How can we learn to “hope all things” in our relationships?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love hopes all things with _____
Love (expects the best for) the one I love.

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things...”

Lesson 15

Facets of Love

“Love ... endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:7d

The last phrase of this verse adds another perspective to this love. This has to do with the circumstances we experience and how we decide to let them affect our relationship.

Questions and points to think about

★ Read verse 1 Corinthians 13:7. Remember our discussion in the last lesson about the significance of the patterns found in this verse.

★ The last phrase in this verse is *“endures all things.”* What is endurance?

★ How does the idea of endurance fit into a relationship?

★ What other scriptures speak of endurance in a relationship of love?

★ Why is endurance important?

★ How can we learn to “endure all things” in our relationships?

★ Assignment for this lesson:

★ Fill in the blanks below with the name of a person who you want to learn to love more fully as the Lord designed. It can be a spouse, brother, friend or, to make it challenging, someone that is difficult. It should be someone with whom you will have contact this week.

★ Love endures all things with _____

During this week pay special attention to:

- Recognizing and
- Learning to apply this aspect in this relationship, but do not forget:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things...”

Love...

<p>Suffers long <hr/> <i>Is patient</i></p>	<p>Is kind <hr/> <i>Behaves kindly</i></p>	<p>Does not envy</p>
<p>Does not parade itself <hr/> <i>Does not boast about itself</i></p>	<p>Is not puffed up <hr/> <i>Is not arrogant or prideful</i></p>	<p>Does not behave rudely</p>
<p>Does not seek its own <hr/> <i>Does not insist on its own way</i></p>	<p>Is not provoked <hr/> <i>Does not throw a fit</i></p>	<p>Thinks no evil <hr/> <i>Does not keep a record of wrongs suffered</i></p>
<p>Does not rejoice in iniquity <hr/> <i>Does not delight in behavior in conflict with God's design</i></p>	<p>Rejoices in the truth <hr/> <i>Delights in behavior consistent with God's design</i></p>	<p>Bears all things <hr/> <i>Protects, covers and supports the one loved</i></p>
<p>Believes all things <hr/> <i>Has faith and confidence in the one loved</i></p>	<p>Hopes all things <hr/> <i>Expects the best for the one loved</i></p>	<p>Endures all things <hr/> <i>Thrives through any circumstance</i></p>

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Lesson 16

Love never fails

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

This passage at the end of 1 Corinthians 13 makes a powerful statement about love, in sharp contrast to the things that were distracting the Corinthian brethren. Different interpretations of these verses have led to disagreements about what is being taught. Context is the key to understanding the point that is being made.

Questions and points to think about

Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. What do you think the main point is?

★ Think of the context.

★ How did the chapter begin? What was the message of verse 1-3?

★ What is the subject of the chapters before and after this one?

★ How does that help us to understand the message of verses 8-13?

★ Verse 8 makes some comparisons. In contrast to love, what are these things that are fading away?

★ How does verse 9-10 help us to understand why the things of verse 8 are fading away? To what does the “in part” and the “perfect” refer?

★ What is the illustration used in verse 11? How does it apply?

★ Another illustration is used in verse 12. How does it apply?

★ Read verse 13. What are the things that will survive?

★ How does love rank among the survivors?

★ How does the end of chapter 13 fit with the beginning?

Lesson 17

Love in Action

1 John - Introduction

We have studied 1 Corinthians 13, a chapter that examines in some detail the aspects of what this “agape” love is. Now, let’s look at love in action. John’s first epistle has a lot to say about love and its consequences.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John. The whole letter takes about 15-20 minutes to read. This helps to set the context.
- ★ Let’s start with some general questions.
 - ★ Who wrote 1 John?
 - ★ Why was this letter written? John answers this in at least two places.
 - ★ Is this purpose relevant to us today? Explain.
- ★ Read 1 John 1.
- ★ Twice John talks about proclaiming something. What is he proclaiming?

In this letter John has a lot to say and the messages are important and meaningful to us today. It would be good to spend the time to carefully study 1 John to dig into the treasures he discusses. For the purposes of this study on Living Love, we will be looking primarily at what he has to say about love.

★ Read 1 John 1:3-6.

★ Look at verse 3.

★ What does John talk about knowing in this verse?

★ What if someone claims to know God but does not keep His commandments?

★ What does it mean to say “the love of God is perfected in him”?

★ Verse 5-6 is another “...by this we know...” passage. What is this talking about?

★ How does this help us to understand this love that is so important to a disciple?

Lesson 18

Enlightenment and Love

1 John 2:7-11

This passage has a lot to say about enlightenment and its relationship with love.

Questions and points to think about:

- ★ Look at 1 John 2:7-8. These verses seem to be contradictory. How can they both be right?

- ★ What is the old commandment to which he is referring? Find an example in the Old Testament that teaches to love God and each other.

- ★ Read John 13:34-35. This is one place where we find Jesus giving a new commandment. It is very similar to what is found in the Old Testament. What is different?

- ★ What is so significant about this difference?

- ★ Notice verses 9-11. These verses have a lot to say about enlightenment. Reread 1 John 1:5-7. What did this teach us about light and darkness?

- ★ 1 John 2:9. What does this verse tell us? Why is this true?

★ What does the word “*hate*” mean?

★ What does verse 10 tell us is true for those who continue to love their brother?

★ What does “*no cause for stumbling*” mean?

Lesson 19

God Expresses His Love

1 John 3:1-3

The third chapter of 1 John begins with something truly breathtaking.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 3:1-3. What is the wonderful and amazing statement that John uses to begin this chapter?

- ★ What does it mean to be considered children of God? Why is that so special?

- ★ Read verse 2. What are the consequences for a child of God?

- ★ Verse 3 reminds me again of the physical relationship that children have with their parents. What do young children often do with their parents clothes or shoes? Why?

Lesson 20

Love is Essential

1 John 3:10-15

This is another of the “by this we know” passages. We see how to tell the difference between children of God and children of the devil and how to know whether we are alive or dead.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 3:10-13. What are the two distinguishing marks of being a child of God or a child of the devil?

- ★ What is the message that has been heard from the beginning?

- ★ To what story does he refer?

- ★ Why was that first murder committed?

- ★ Read verse 14-15. What evidence is given to determine whether I have resurrected life in me?

- ★ Find at least one other passage that describes this transition from death to life.

Lesson 21

By This We Know Love

1 John 3:16-23

So what real example do we have to show us this love in action? How do we understand what it is all about?

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 3:16-23.
- ★ About whom is verse 16 talking? How do we know love?
- ★ Consider Philippians 2:5-8 and John 17:5. How do these help us to understand 1 John 3:16?
- ★ What is expected of us? What does this mean?
- ★ Verses 17-18 gets very practical. How do these verses describe love in action?
- ★ Is this a challenge for present-day Christians?

- ★ Verse 19 is interesting. What is this verse teaching?

- ★ How do verses 20-21 help explain verse 19?

- ★ Is verse 22 a recipe for getting God to write us a blank check? Explain.

- ★ Verse 23 gets us back to the basic commandment. What is that?

- ★ What does it mean to believe on (or in) the name of His Son Jesus Christ?

Lesson 22

We Know God by Knowing Love

1 John 4:7-11

In this passage we see more about the connection between love and God. John has a lot to say about love. It is important for disciples of Jesus to understand.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 4:7-11.
- ★ What command do we see again in verse 7?
- ★ What does verse 7 tell us about the relationship between God and love?
- ★ Verse 8 describes the relationship between love and God in a different way. What is the difference?
- ★ How does knowing love help us to know God?
- ★ Read verse 9-10. How was the love of God revealed to us?
- ★ With all of this being true, what does verse 11 tell us should be the consequence?

Living Love Manifests God to Others

1 John 4:12-16

This passage contains both assurance and challenge in understanding the nature of our relationship with Him.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 4:12-16.
- ★ With what obvious statement does verse 12 begin?
- ★ How is the rest of verse 12 related to the this statement?
- ★ What does it mean to say His love is “perfected” in us?
- ★ Explain what is meant in verse 16 by “we have known and believed the love that God has for us”?
- ★ What assurance is there in the latter part of verse 16?

Lesson 23

Consequence of Love Perfected

1 John 4:17-19

Now we continue with the idea of love being perfected in us. Here we see the consequences of that perfected love.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 4:7-19 to be reminded of the context of verses 17-19.
- ★ Verse 17 begins with a statement about a “perfected” love. What is meant by the word “perfected?”
- ★ What does verse 17 tell us is the consequence of this love perfected in us? What does that mean?
- ★ What reason does the verse give for this?
- ★ Verse 18 describes a contrast between a perfected love and a love not yet perfected. What is this talking about?

★ Consider the following verses. How do they apply to 1 John 4:18?

★ Hebrews 2:14-15

★ Romans 8:15

★ How can I tell if this love is not yet perfected in me?

★ What point(s) does verse 19 reinforce?

Lesson 24

Loving God / Loving Our Brother

1 John 4:20 - 5:3

This is the last place in 1 John that specifically mentions love. We see here some themes repeated and emphasized.

Questions and points to think about

- ★ Read 1 John 4:20 - 5:3.

- ★ What connection is made again in verse 20 about loving God and loving our brother?

- ★ Why would someone claim (or believe) that they love God while mistreating a fellow disciple?

- ★ Is this a problem for our time or limited to the 1st century? Explain.

- ★ Is loving one another optional?

★ 1 John 5:2 presents a “By this we know...” teaching that is different that what we have seen before. What is different?

★ How is the love of God described in verse 3?

Lesson 25

Love in 2nd and 3rd John

2 John

These are very short letters, unique in several ways. Even though these letters are only 13 and 15 verses long, respectively, much is said about love.

Questions and points to think about

★ Read 2 John.

★ What do we know about whom the letter is written for and when it was written?

★ How does John mention love in his greeting?

★ What is the commandment about which John speaks in verse 5?

★ How is this commandment described in verse 6?

- ★ Read 3rd John.

- ★ What do we know about whom the letter is written for and when it was written?

- ★ How does John mention love in his greeting?

- ★ How is love discussed in verse 5-8? What was happening and how did this display love?

Lesson 26

Jesus Living Love

Let's look at some examples of the interactions Jesus had with people. He demonstrated love in His time on earth. Think of the aspects of love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and the principles of love we have studied in the epistles of John.

For each of these examples, what aspects and principles of love does He demonstrate?

★ Nicodemus - John 3:1-21

★ Samaritan woman at the well - John 4:5-30

★ Woman caught in adultery - John 8:3-11

★ Peter's denial & reclamation - John 13:37-38; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19