

APPLICATION

- What does living in God's love look like for you? Give examples of these.
- What are your fears or concerns? How may God's love help you overcome these?
- Are there people in your life who operate on a reward-punishment system? How may you share about God's transforming love to them this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God that His love is being perfected in us as we abide in Him and love others.
- Pray that you would experience the joy, peace, and freedom that God's love brings every day. Pray that God would remove every fear that hinders you from trusting in His love.
- Pray that God would use your words and actions to help others experience His love. Pray that your life would be a living testimony of God's love.

A Love Like His

Living in God's Perfect Love

WEEK 2

WARM-UP

- What are some things you do to show a person that you love them, care about them, or think about them? Why are these important to you?
- Who is one person you look up to or want to be like? Why?
- What are your fears or worries? What do you do to face them?

WORD ¹¹*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹²*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 JOHN 4:11-12

(Read also **1 JOHN 4.**)

In one of his letters, the apostle John repeats the same exhortation to his readers: *love one another*. Though this may seem challenging to do, it is possible only through God, who is the source of love Himself. Today, let's look at how God's love changes us as we abide and trust in Him.



1 | God's love is perfected in us as we abide in Him and love others.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 1 JOHN 4:12

God's love isn't meant to remain with us alone. Loving God and loving others go hand-in-hand. As we continue to walk in His ways, we learn to love others. When we do so, God's love reaches its intended purpose through us. Loving others is evidence that God's love is alive and active in us. How have you learned to love others as you love God?

2 | Living in love means abiding in God.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 JOHN 4:13-16

One way to know what the parents of a household are like is to look at their children. The words and actions kids express often reflect the personality and character of their parents and guardians. This picture gives us an idea of what a relationship with God looks like. God abides in us and we are to abide in Him. When we rely on His love and are rooted and secure in it, God and His love are settled in us as well.

We abound in His love. Though loving others may seem like a command, loving others becomes natural when we truly love God. What qualities have you learned about God as you trusted in His love for you and others?

3 | Knowing God's perfect love casts out fear.

¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 JOHN 4:17-18

Oftentimes, it is not easy to love others or ourselves. Fear and insecurity can easily creep in and plant lies in our hearts. But God's *perfect love casts out fear*, giving us confidence in His presence and in judgment. The more we trust in God's love, the less fear controls our lives. When we wholeheartedly trust God's love, we no longer operate on a reward-punishment system. His love transforms us, enabling us to love others and obey His commands without fear of punishment or thinking of earning rewards. This is why we can do everything out of love because God is our ultimate reward. How has God's love helped you overcome fear?
