

Bible Study Discussion Guide

True Love – 1 John 4:7–18 (NLT)

Open-Ended Discussion Questions

1. John begins by saying, "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God."

What do you think it means that genuine love "comes from God"? How is God's love different from the way our culture often defines love?

2. Verse 9 says God showed His love by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.

How does Jesus' sacrifice shape your understanding of what true love looks like in everyday relationships?

3. Verse 11 says, "Since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other."

What makes it difficult to love certain people? How can remembering God's love for you change the way you respond to those challenges?

4. John writes that "No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us."

When have you experienced God's love through the actions of another person? How can our love make the invisible God visible to others?

5. Verses 13–16 describe abiding (remaining) in God and in His love.

What practices or habits help you stay rooted in God's love, especially during stressful or uncertain seasons?

6. Verse 17 says that as we live in God, our love grows more perfect.

In what ways have you seen God grow your capacity to love over the years? Where do you still hope to grow?

7. Verse 18 teaches that "perfect love expels all fear."

What kinds of fears most often compete with your trust in God's love? How does knowing you are deeply loved by God help you face those fears?

8. John connects fear with punishment and confidence with God's perfect love.

Why do you think some Christians struggle to believe God truly delights in them rather than merely tolerates them? What truths in this passage speak to that struggle?

9. Looking at the entire passage, what characteristics of God's love stand out to you the most?

Which one challenges or encourages you personally, and why?

10. After studying 1 John 4:7–18, what is one specific way God is calling you to love someone this week?

How can this group pray for and encourage you as you seek to live that out?

Closing Challenge

Complete this sentence:

"Because God first loved me, this week I will intentionally show His love by..."