

LOVE

THE HEART OF GOD'S PLAN

God's Love for You!

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September 27 & 28, 2008

If 1 Corinthians 13 is the Bible's "love chapter", the book of First John is the "love book"! Let's look at First John today as we begin our LOVE immersion.

The Author: The Apostle John

- Wrote more books of the New Testament than anyone except Paul
- Outlived all the other Apostles
- Nickname: "The Apostle of _____"
- Used "love" more than any other Bible writer: ____ times!
- "Love" used ____ times in 1 John alone!
- But his first nickname was "Son of _____"!

"As a young man, along with his brother James, John was the most sectarian, narrow-minded, unbending, and personally zealous of all the disciples. He behaved like an extremist, a bigot, a harsh man. In his early years he was the most unlikely candidate to be remembered as the apostle of love."
—John MacArthur (See Luke 9, Mark 9)

Lesson: _____ !

How can my life be changed?

1. Start with _____

"We love because **God first loved us.**" *1 John 4:19* (NIV)

"Love comes from God... for **God is love.**" *1 John 4:7-8* (NLT)

"For **God so loved** the world that He gave His only begotten **Son**, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.." *John 3:16* (NKJV)

"We **know** and **rely** on the love God has for us." *1 John 4:16a* (NIV)

2. Soak in the _____

"How great is the love the Father has **lavished** on us..." *1 John 3:1*

"**Behold** what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us..." *1 John 3:1* (NKJV)

"God is love. Whoever **lives in love** lives in God, and God in him." *1 John 4:16b* (NIV)

3. See myself as _____

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God!** And that is what we **are!** The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” *1 John 3:1*

“Dear friends, now **we are children of God...**” *1 John 3:2a*

4. Share _____

“Dear friends, let us **practice loving each other**, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better.” *1 John 4:7 (LB)*

“Beloved, since God so **loved us**, we also ought to **love one another.**” *1 John 4:11 (NIV)*

“Whoever **loves God** must also **love his brother.**” *1 John 4:21b*

How do I put this into action?

LOVE GRANTS

Does your small group have an idea for showing love to the community? During the LOVE immersion, TLC has “LOVE grants” available of up to \$100 to help. Apply online at www.tldove.com

SHAREFEST

Choose a way to serve the community on a ShareFest team: One morning, thousands of lives touched. Saturday, October 25. Get details at www.santacruzfest.org

SECOND HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

Let's beat last year's 300,000 pound total-as a show of love! Collection here at TLC **October 25 – November 9**

The big idea:

We _____ as we believe ourselves to be _____

Next Weekend



WEEK 2:

We celebrate our love for one another in one giant LOVE church service!!

Sunday, 10:45am at the Cabrillo College Stadium

ALL OTHER SERVICE TIMES AND LOCATIONS ARE CANCELLED!

Preview Weekend: What Matters Most

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” *Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)*

Week 1: God’s Love for You

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” *1 John 4:16*

Week 2: Love is Patient

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.” *1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

Week 3: Love is Kind

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” *John 13:34-35*

Week 4: Love is Secure

“Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long...” *Deuteronomy 33:12b*

Week 5: Love Forgives

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” *1 Peter 4:8*

Week 6: Telling God You Love Him

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 8:38-39*

Week 7: What Matters Most

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” *1 Corinthians 13:6-8a*



“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” *1 John 4:16 (NIV)*