



Bob Chisholm

The Language of Love

John 1 / 1 John 4 / John 13

Small Group Plan

In his book, **The 5 Love Languages**, Gary Chapman answers the question: “How do we meet each other’s deep emotional need to feel loved?” Of course, his primary audience is the marriage relationship, but a much broader application can be made.

The concept of love language describes how love gets through to different individuals in different ways. Chapman identifies five languages. Probably one or more will ring true with you:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Quality Time
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Acts of Service
5. Physical Touch

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Which “love language” do you most identify with? Explain why.
- How do you see Jesus using these languages to express his love?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

“NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD, BUT ... ”

John 1:18

*No one has ever seen God,
but the one and only Son, who is himself God
and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

- What does John mean when he writes, “No one has ever seen God”?
- How does Jesus show us God – “made him known”?
- How is Jesus a walking and talking picture of how God would walk and talk?
- How are Jesus’ life and actions a demonstration of God’s love for humanity?

“NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD, BUT ...”

1 John 4:12

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

- Compare John’s Gospel statement with His Letter statement.
- Do you think it is a coincidence that the same writer used the exactly the same phrase to introduce the point of his sentence? Explain.
- How are the two scriptures expressing the same message?
- How are they different?
- How can we, like Jesus, make God known?
- Describe the role love plays in making God known.

“BY THIS EVERYONE WILL KNOW”

John 13:35

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.*

- How is love a distinctly Christian concept?
- How does love work in relationships?
- Describe how other virtues are contained in and utilized by love, i.e. listening, forgiveness, humility, sharing, etc.
- How does our love for each other communicate and convince outsiders?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- How did Jesus, and how can we, express love with our:
Words – Time – Gifts - Service – Touch?
- **Family** – How can our words to our spouse, children, siblings and parents sound more like Jesus? How can our actions also look more like Jesus?
- **Church** – How can we, like Jesus, step out of our comfortable circle of friends to put God’s words and deeds into action?
- **Community** – what can be our first steps to walk and talk like Jesus in our neighborhood and workplace?
- Close in prayer asking for God, who was clearly seen in Jesus, to be clearly seen in us, his church.