



You Can't Live Without It

1 John 4

Small Group Plan

How do you share the love of Jesus with a lonely man.
How do you tell a hungry man about the bread of life.
How do you tell a thirsty man about the living water of the Lord.
How do you tell him of His Word.

How do you tell a dying man about eternal life.
How do you tell an orphan child about the Father's love.
How do you tell a man who's poor about the wondrous riches of the Lord.
How do you tell him of His Word.

How do you tell a loveless world that God himself is love.
How do you tell a man who's down to lift his eyes above.
How do you tell a bleeding man about the healing power of the Lord.
How do you tell him of His Word.

Chorus:

People who know go to people who need to know ... Jesus
People who love go to people alone without ... Jesus
For there are people who need to see, people who need to love,
 People who need to know God's redeeming love.
People who see go to those who are blind without ... Jesus
And this is People to People, yes, People to People,
 All sharing together God's love.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Which is the more powerful motivator — love, fear, or hate? Explain.
- Describe how each of the three feels to those being motivated?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— WHAT LOVE IS —

1 John 4:7-8

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- How does our culture define “love?” Give some examples.
- How does the true origin of love challenge the cultural definition of love?
- Which definition is winning today?
- If God were characterized by hatred rather than love how would it impact the world?

— WHAT LOVE DID —

1 John 4:9-10

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- Why is true love always initiated by God?
- How can the violence of the cross be called love?

— WHAT LOVE IS DOING —

1 John 4:11-16a

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 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. ¹³ We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

- How does God’s love touch people today?
- How does our love for each other make the invisible God visible to the world?
- Why are you thankful for the Holy Spirit?

— WHAT LOVE WILL DO —

1 John 4:16b-21

¹⁶ God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

- Explain the power of fear.
- Why have some world leaders chosen fear as a leadership style?
- Do you think most Christians are afraid of God or comfortable with God? Give reasons for your answer.
- How is love outward and giving? How is fear inward and clutching?
- What is really happening when someone professes love for God and yet harbors hatred for a brother or sister?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Love or fear: What does it look like to choose one over the other?
What does it look like in a family?
What does it look like in a friendship?
- Have you had experiences where love cast out fear? Share your story.
- Close by asking God to make us people who love people.