

SESSION 3: LOVE

FACILITATOR GUIDE

BY THIS WE KNOW LOVE,
THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR US, AND WE OUGHT TO
LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR
THE BROTHERS... LITTLE
CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE
IN WORD OR TALK BUT IN
DEED AND IN TRUTH. 1JOHN 3:16&18



FACILITATOR GUIDE

1 JOHN

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 LOVE THE WORD. LIVE THE WORD

FACILITATOR GUIDE

SESSION 3 | LOVE

KEY SCRIPTURE

“By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers ... Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:16 & 18

RECAP SESSION 2

In Session 2 the clip took a closer look at the author, context and background of 1 John and how it is still relevant to our context today.

SESSION 3: LOVE

AIM OF THIS SESSION

To together explore the theme of Love: God, as a God of love, a God who is Love and a God who shows love; and how we are to love God, as well as others, not only in word and speech, but also in action and in deed.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Before getting started this session, we suggest briefly asking about how your group’s reading of the Word went during the past week and what God has been saying to them. For example you could ask:

- What has God been saying to you this week through His Word?
- How can we help you as a community to dig even deeper?
- Has He impressed anything new on you; a fresh revelation that you can share?

Have some fun as well and recap the memory verse. Remember Fuel is about leading people towards studying the Bible and not about making them feel guilty if they have not done so. Try to encourage them in their individual walks and allow your enthusiasm to overflow and inspire them.

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Note: We are exercising muscles that are very weak and for some these muscles have not been in use for a long time. For many this new exercise may seem very sore and they may easily get tired. We need to remember that this will take time, and building a muscle is a slow process.

- **Worksheets:** Hand the Worksheets out BEFORE the clip. There is space for note taking.
- **Play and watch the clip.** Consider playing the clip twice. Perhaps, the first time without taking notes, followed the second time with note taking, OR play it at the end of the discussion again, OR play it once, ask a few key questions from your prep time and play it again – this is not prescriptive. Feel free to work with your group and ask them if they would like to watch the clip again and when.
- **Move into discussion:** some suggested questions and group focus points follow.

GROUP DISCUSSION

To make this session a bit more practical, in line with the theme, we suggest:

- Ask people to share about how they have personally experienced the love of God being shown to them through others. Allow their testimonies and personal stories to stir up what love can look like, in order for the small group to go out and do likewise.
- Spend some time planning and praying about how you as a group can put love into action in the upcoming weeks (“to inconvenience ourselves on someone else’s behalf”).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (OPTIONAL)

- What does it mean to you that God loves you?
- Do any of you struggle with the need to be loved? Why?
- Who here struggles to love people? Why do you feel this is the case?
- Who here struggles to receive love from people? What do you think stops you?
- In this small group – do you feel loved and cared for? If not how can we do this better?
- What are we going to do this week to show love to the unlovable?

APPLICATION

The intent of this teaching series is that it goes beyond a once off small group meeting and discussion. We would love to see people fall in love with the Word of God, and engage with the Word during their personal time, as part of this process.

In order to grow in understanding and bring about change in their lives, we encourage them to spend time on personal reflection, memorisation of Scripture and recommended reading. As such this is the practical element of Fuel.



APPLICATION REFERENCE - WORKSHEET COPY

In order to grow in understanding and bring about change in your life, we encourage you to do the following before your next session. Consider this the practical element of Fuel.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Through this series, open your heart to what God would say to you and allow His Spirit to work in you and transform you to reach this lost and broken world. Before your next session spend some time working through the below. Remember, this is for you... there are no wrong/right answers.

- What does it mean to you that God loves you?
- Do you struggle with your need to be loved? Why do you feel this way?
- Do you struggle to love people? Consider why this is the case?
- Do you struggle to receive love from people? What do you think stops you?
- In your small group – are you loving and caring for others? If not, how can you do this better?
- Think about how you have personally experienced the love of God being shown to you through others? How did it make you feel? What was the impact on your life?
- How have you shown love to others in practical ways? How did it make them feel? What was the impact on their lives?
- What are you going to do this week to show love to the unlovable?
- Are there any adjustments you can make in your life, to live out the love of God more?
- We encourage you to take some time to be vulnerable and share some of your reflections with those you are accountable to, so that you can grow and perhaps receive prayer or support where relevant.

MEDITATING ON THE WORD

Memorising the Scriptures and meditating on them day and night, is one of the ways God shapes us and makes us into the people He wants us to be.

MEMORY VERSE

“By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers” - 1 John 3:16

“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18

PERSONAL READING

This week read through 1 John again. Highlight the passages that speak about **Love** and spend some time focusing on these Scriptures.