

Outline

1 John 4:7-8 (NASB) ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Exodus 34:6-7 (NASB) ⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Lovingkindness = Hessed in Hebrew

Outline (continued)

Micah 6:8 (NASB) 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

1 John 4:9-10 (NASB) 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Outline (continued)

Propitiation = "atoning sacrifice" God's wrath is appeased, sin must be judged

Our sins are taken away

Romans 5:8 (NASB) 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 8:28-39 (NASB) 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Outline (continued)

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;
34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Outline (continued)

1 John 4:13 (NASB) 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Romans 5:5 (NASB) 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 John 4:15 (NASB) 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

John 14:21 (NASB) 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Outline (continued)

John 14:23 (NASB) 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

1 John 4:16 (NASB) 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

John 15:9 (NASB) 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

1 John 4:17 (NASB) 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

Outline (continued)

John 5:24 (NASB) 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

Romans 8:1-4 (NASB) 1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Outline (continued)

1 John 4:18 (NASB) 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
Genesis 3:10 (NASB) 10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

Romans 8:1 (NASB) 1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:19 (NASB) 19 We love, because He first loved us.

Outline (continued)

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Chorus Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship His holy Name. Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy Name.

Verse 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning; It's time to sing Your song again. Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, Let me be singing when the evening comes. **Chorus**

Verse 2 You're rich in love and You're slow to anger, Your Name is great and Your heart is kind; For all Your goodness I will keep on singing, Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **Chorus**

Outline (continued)

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) (continued)

Verse 3 And on that day when my strength is failing, The end draws near and my time has come;

Still my soul sings Your praise unending, Ten thousand years and then forevermore. Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, worship His holy Name. Sing like never before, O my soul.

I'll worship Your holy Name.

Message Slides:

The Wonder of Christmas



*The Wonder of
His Love*

1 John 4:16-19 (NASB)



1 John 4:8 (NASB)

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Elijah Pettinger

Questions

1. What personality trait or strength did you get from your father? Your mother?
2. What is God like (1 John 4:8,16)?
3. What do we learn from Exodus 34:6-7 about God?
Exodus 34:6-7 (NASB)
4. How has God demonstrated He is love (1 John 4:10)?

Questions (continued)

5. Explain why Jesus' death on the cross and His self-sacrificial love is so powerful and moving to us who believe? What is there about sacrificial love that provokes us to respond back? How has someone demonstrated sacrificial love to you? How can you show sacrificial love to someone who is in need right now?
6. How can a person know God and experience His love (1 John 4:13-16)?
7. What do you need to have happen in your life, to experience the depths of God's amazing lovingkindness to and for you? Have you experienced this love? When and how?

Questions (continued)

8. How does the message that God's love drives out fear (1 John 4:18), relate to the teaching that God is light (1 John 1:5)? (see also 1 John 4:10)
9. Give an example in your life of a time when God's love drove out fear?
10. What is the only way John says to improve on loving others (1 John 4:15-16)?

Spend time as a group simply sitting in the presence of God and have someone read slowly 1 John 4:7-21 while everyone has their eyes closed. Listen with your head and your heart.