



Sermon Discussion Guide
1 John: Searching for Certainty
1 John 3:11-24
Jeff Heiser, October 20, 2019

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. How has the use of technology in your family hurt or helped your relationships, both inside the family and without?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

LOVE THE FAMILY (vv. 11-15)

1. Discuss how churches have become “lifestyle enclaves.” How do you think would John confront some of the tendencies of the modern church?
2. Saint Cyprian said, “No one can have God for his Father, who has not the Church for his mother.” How could loving the church become a powerful witness to the world?

LOVE LIKE CHRIST (vv. 16-18)

1. Discuss how an understanding of love as approval could lead ultimately to loneliness and disconnection from others. How is Christ’s love radically different from our culture’s definition of love?
2. Read v. 18. Share stories of when you have been loved “in deed and in truth.”

LOVE WITH CONFIDENCE (vv. 19-24)

1. We need a solid foundation of non-anxiety from which to love each other boldly and self-sacrificially. Discuss how God’s love allows gives us freedom to love each other well.
2. In v. 24, John speaks of the Holy Spirit abiding in us. How is the promise of the Holy Spirit the ultimate proof of our Father’s love?

Step 3: Final Reflections

1. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
2. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?