



Week 5 Message-Based Curriculum

Text: 1 John 3:11-24

Opening

- Begin with a **brief welcome and prayer** to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** Love is the evidence of the Children of God

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- What are you actually feeling heading into Thanksgiving week? Excited? Anxious? Grieving? Overwhelmed? Or something else? Why?
- Have you ever let something in your heart grow bigger than it should? (Feel free to share if you want, but this is just to get our brains rolling before we jump into the Bible.)

DISCOVER

Read 1 John 3:11-24 together

- John uses Cain as an example of what love is not. What do you think was happening in Cain's heart before the murder ever happened?
- Why do you think John says hatred in the heart is the spiritual equivalent of murder?
- What does this reveal about how seriously God takes the condition of our hearts?

REFLECTION

- Where do you see "small heart issues" that could become bigger if left unchecked in your own life?
- When you see a need, big or small, what is your first instinct: do you open or close your heart to the needs of others?
- Why does John tie genuine faith so tightly to sacrificial actions?
- Share about a time when someone's simple act of love impacted you more than they realized. How did it shape your faith?

APPLY

- As we head into the holidays, what situation, person, or environment do you want to prepare to walk in with a mindset of love? And what does love require of you in those situations?

GROUP PRAYER

This week, we are going to tie our prayer requests to what we've been talking about:

Pray for:

- Hearts open—not closed—to love
- Strength to love like Jesus when it's costly
- Assurance for anyone whose heart condemns them
- Sensitivity to the Spirit's leading
- Peace, unity, and Christlike love during the holidays

CLOSING

- Wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and even if it's going to be some time before you meet again, make a plan to check in with one another.
- Preview next week's passage: **1 John 4:1-6**