

Toward Love in Action

Summary and Goal

We cannot evade the Bible's command to love. It comes through loud and clear, running throughout the pages of Scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments. As those who have been rescued from our sin, we now have been given a new identity and the fruit of love will be evident in our lives. This love is not something kept within us; it will naturally be shown through our actions.

Main Passage

1 John 3:10-18

Session Outline

1. The way of the world is marked by hatred (1 John 3:10-13).
2. The way of the church is marked by love (1 John 3:14-15).
3. The way of love is marked by action (1 John 3:16-18).

Theological Theme

Love for God and love for others is the fruit of true Christianity.

Christ Connection

In teaching the church about the nature of true love, the apostle John reminded Christians that love is not merely a matter of feelings or words but of action. Love was demonstrated and defined most clearly by Jesus' action of laying down His life for His people.

Missional Application

God calls us to open our eyes to see who is in need and what we can give as a demonstration of Christ's love.

Date of My Bible Study: _____

Session Plan

Toward Love in Action

? For Further Discussion

How do the people you love know that you love them?

How do words, feelings, and actions all contribute to the expression of love?

Pack Item 3:
Hearing the Old Testament in the New

Pack Item 4:
Handout

Ask group members to pull out their handout and fill in the blank for this session:

- “Cain...”
(answer: “The World...”)

Introduction

Contrast the Bible’s view of love with the cultural idea that love is primarily an emotion felt (leader p. 70; PSG p. 55).

? How would you define *love*?

Say that love is not only a feeling, so we must depend on God to enable us to love people, both the ones we adore and the ones we don’t particularly care for. Then summarize the session (leader p. 70; PSG pp. 55-56).

1. The way of the world is marked by hatred (1 John 3:10-13).

Read 1 John 3:10-13. Make the genetic-makeup analogy between physical fruit and human beings. Establish that all of humankind has inherited Adam’s sin nature and only through Christ does our “spiritual DNA” change that we would become more like Christ (leader pp. 71-72; PSG p. 56).

? What are some changes God has made in you since you have become a Christian?

Recall the Cain and Abel story (*or consider enlisting a volunteer to recap this biblical narrative*). Emphasize that difficult relationships help us see that God’s kind of love is not something we can conjure up on our own—loving others like Christ loved us is a feat that can only be done with supernatural power (leader p. 72; PSG p. 57).

? The world is marked by hate, but does that mean all the world can do is hate? Why or why not?


? How does the world’s love differ and fall short of God’s love?

2. The way of the church is marked by love (1 John 3:14-15).

Share the example of Corrie ten Boom's family expressing the supernatural love we are called to exhibit (leader p. 73). Then read 1 John 3:14-15. Emphasize the importance of love for our assurance of salvation—love for God, the church, and neighbors and enemies (leader pp. 73-74; PSG p. 58).


 How have you seen the Spirit's fruit of love worked out in your life?

Contrast the scribes and Pharisees with a true follower of Christ, who is marked by the righteousness of Christ and bears the fruit of the Spirit, beginning with love (leader pp. 74-75; PSG p. 59).

 How should the reality of Christ's right-standing with God given to us by faith change the way we think about loving others?

3. The way of love is marked by action (1 John 3:16-18).

Ask a volunteer to read 1 John 3:16-18. Present the analogy of God's love working like a circuit: God first loved us by sending His Son, and we serve as conduits of that love to others (leader pp. 75-76; PSG p. 60).

 What are some things that might prevent us from showing God's love to others?

Talk about the five actions to consider as we strive to show the world the love of Christ (leader pp. 76-77; PSG pp. 60-61):

1. **Pray.**
2. **Pay attention.**
3. **Proclaim the gospel.**
4. **Provide for those who are where you cannot be.**
5. **Publish the needs to others.**

 Why must the way of love be marked by action?

 What are some ways you can act in love for the benefit of your community?

Conclusion

Encourage group members to love as we have been loved by Christ (leader p. 77; PSG p. 62). *Apply the truths of this session with "His Mission, Your Mission"* (PSG p. 63).

Point 3 Option

Ask groups of 3-4 to read the "Essential Christian Doctrine" *God Is Love* (leader p. 77; PSG p. 62) and to discuss the following questions (consider writing the questions on a board or sheet of paper for groups to have; also available on the DVD in *The Gospel Project for Adults: Leader Pack*):

- How is the Christian view of God as Trinity foundational to understanding that God is love?
- In what ways is love foundational to our witness to Jesus Christ in the world?

After a couple of moments, allow groups to share some of their reflections and conclusions with the entire group.

Christ Connection: In teaching the church about the nature of true love, the apostle John reminded Christians that love is not merely a matter of feelings or words but of action. Love was demonstrated and defined most clearly by Jesus' action of laying down His life for His people.

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Missional Application: God calls us to open our eyes to see who is in need and what we can give as a demonstration of Christ's love.

Toward Love in Action



Voices from Church History

“Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person’s ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.”¹

—C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)

Introduction

In a world filled with ideas about what love is, it can be hard to discern what it looks like to follow the Bible’s commands to love. Predominant in our culture is an elevated importance on our feelings. To most people, love is primarily an emotion felt, which can come and go as it pleases. The world’s definition of love does not always involve actions. Biblical love, however, is evidenced in our actions, not just in our feelings and preferences.



How would you define *love*?

Love originates from God, and only those who have experienced the love of God can show the kind of love that pleases God. Friends and enemies. Neighbors and family. The call to love is inescapable, and as Christians, obedience to that calling ought to permeate all of our relationships.

Though love is not only a feeling, we must continually stoke the fire of our love for people, both for the ones we adore and the ones we don’t particularly care for. We do so as we remember the love of Christ so lavishly bestowed upon us. The natural response of a true Christ-follower will be to pour out on the world around us the same love we’ve been shown in Jesus.

Session Summary

In this session, we will study the biblical call to love as heard from one of the apostle John’s letters to believers. We cannot evade the Bible’s command to love. It comes through loud and clear, running throughout the pages of Scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments. As those who have been rescued from our sin, we now have been given a new identity and the fruit of love will be evident in our lives. This love is not something kept within us; it will naturally be shown through our actions.

1. The way of the world is marked by hatred (1 John 3:10-13).

Many of my friends grew up in farming communities. From pecan orchards to orange groves, tobacco crops, and corn fields, they all hold memories of harvest time. Ingathering was an all-hands-on-deck season. Every spare moment was spent collecting the fruit of their labors.

Of all the harvests my friends experienced, I've never heard of a time when they harvested something other than their expected crop. The pecan trees always dropped pecans. The orange trees produced oranges. The stalks shot out an ear of corn. To think their crops would produce anything other than what was planted would be insanity. The reason is simple: The genetic makeup of each tree or plant determines the fruit it could bear. A banana tree will never produce a bell pepper. An apple tree won't produce asparagus. A grapevine will never produce garlic. There are factors that might affect a tree or plant's ability to produce fruit—the amounts of sunlight, nutrients, and water available—but each tree or plant is always limited to producing what it was designed to produce.

The same is true of people. People will always produce fruit according to how their hearts are designed.

¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

Just as the physical fruit of the plant kingdom is limited by genetic makeup, so are people. All of humankind has inherited Adam's sin nature; therefore, our corrupted spiritual DNA leads only to death, moral decay, and a distance from God that we can never span. Only through Christ does our spiritual DNA change. When we trust in Christ, we are born again to a new life, a new identity, and a new purpose. Our old state of death and decay is done away with, and in its place we are given eternal life and the beginnings of spiritual transformation.

Further Commentary

"Having established that the children of God are characterized by righteousness and freedom from sin, John now describes them as people who love one another. But, although this is their character (v. 14), it is nevertheless necessary to urge them to love one another (vv. 11,18). The nature of brotherly love is illustrated negatively by the contrast with Cain who murdered his brother and positively by the example of Jesus Christ who laid down his own life for us. Each of these illustrations is followed by a corollary. Thus believers must not be surprised if they are hated by people like Cain, and they must avoid the feelings of hatred which are tantamount to murder. In the same way, the positive example of Christ's self-sacrifice leads to an appeal for a practical love which goes beyond feelings to costly sharing of one's possessions with the needy. In this way the paragraph is both an appeal for love and an explanation of the nature of love by contrast with its opposite, hatred."²

—I. Howard Marshall



Further Commentary

“Whatever one claims, the absence of love proves that one still remains outside the sphere of the life of God and in the realm of death and darkness (cf. 2:9-11). This statement serves as a stern warning for anyone at anytime who finds an absence of love in his heart. For those in the community of faith, it should be an occasion for soul searching and careful examination ‘to see whether you are in the faith’ (2 Cor. 13:5).”³

—Daniel L. Akin

Voices from Church History

“There is no faculty of the human soul so persistent and universal as that of hatred. There are hatreds of race; hatreds of sect; and social and personal hatreds. If thoughts of hatred were thunder and lightning, there would be a storm over the whole earth all the year round.”⁴

—Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)

At the moment of our salvation, God initiates a great work in us. It is a work that makes us more and more into the likeness of His Son. We partner with Him in this work until the day we meet Him face to face and we finally become complete, lacking in nothing. Until then, we are all works in progress, but the proof that we have been given this new identity is the work that has already begun.


Those who do not know Christ do not yet have this sanctifying work within them. Their trajectory is opposite ours; it is what ours used to be. Some openly mock God and hate Christians. They do not believe in nor love God and never plan to. Their life is marked with hate. We must certainly be grieved by these people, so let us intercede on their behalf for a change of heart, enlightened spiritual eyes to the reality of their destiny, and a willingness to submit their ways to God.


Yet there are others who are on this same trajectory but are not so easy to spot, and their spiritual DNA is just as corrupted as the former. They may even be churchgoers, appearing to walk the walk and talk the talk. We cannot always discern the difference between real spiritual growth and a white-washed church-going performance. But the Bible is clear: Just as a corn stalk will not produce a tomato, a spiritually dead soul cannot produce the life-bearing fruit of Christ.

 What are some changes God has made in you since you have become a Christian?

What do you remember about the story of Cain and Abel? Both made a sacrifice to God, yet only Abel’s was accepted by God as righteous. Abel is listed in the “Hall of Faith” in Hebrews 11:4, where we are told that Abel’s sacrifice was a more acceptable sacrifice because of his faith. Since we know that our salvation is graciously given to us by faith and never by the works we do (Eph. 2:8-9), we must assume that though Cain and Abel both brought a sacrifice, only one did so with the undercurrent of faith: Abel.

It takes only one difficult relationship to see that the love we are called to exhibit is not something we can conjure up on our own. Loving others like Christ loved us is a feat that can only be done with supernatural power. This is why the nonbeliever is unable to display the spiritual fruit of love: The power of the Holy Spirit is not within them. The call to love as God has loved us is a calling they can never carry out. Neither is it possible for those in Christ, that is, without God’s working and enabling grace transforming our hearts to show a supernatural, unexplainable love.

 The world is marked by hate, but does that mean all the world can do is hate? Why or why not?

 How does the world’s love differ and fall short of God’s love?

2. The way of the church is marked by love (1 John 3:14-15).

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom is heart-wrenching in all the best ways. In it, Corrie, a Dutch watchmaker's daughter, tells of the journey her Christian family took through the horrors of World War II.

During the German occupation of Holland, Corrie's family was faced with the daily choice of playing it safe or showing the love of Christ. They could hunker down, keep their heads low, and wait it all out or they could love the needy people in danger all around them.

Their choice to stand up against the oppression of the Nazis, be a safe house for the Jews, and provide counterfeit papers to these refugees trying to escape the Nazis brought a daily danger to their door. Eventually, they were betrayed, arrested, and forced into dreadful prison camps. But their call to love people did not stop there. Upon entering the concentration camp system, their ministry turned from rescuing the Jews from the hands of the Germans to loving and praying for their fellow despondent inmates as well as the cruel and contemptible Nazi soldiers who imprisoned and mistreated them.

Corrie's telling of those prison days demonstrates the power of Christ's love to enable us to show love to others (2 Cor. 5:14-15). The bravery, faith, and love exhibited by Corrie and her family were extraordinary and truly inspirational. Yet Corrie made it clear that love for her enemies was only possible because of the faithful, powerful working of God through them. Her ability to love her enemies was from Christ alone. Her actions of love were compelled by the fact that she herself was loved by Christ.

John continued his letter by talking about this supernatural love that is within us and identifies us as Christians:

¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

John tells us something startling here that we don't want to miss. The way we will know we have passed from death to life—that we have been saved—is when we love fellow believers. It's not sinning less or obeying the commands of Scripture more. It's not attending worship gatherings or reading the Bible daily. All of those are important and can be signs of our salvation too. But John singled out loving brothers and sisters in Christ as evidence of our eternal life. Love is what sets us apart from the world. Failing to love is hate, and hate is what marks the world.



Voices from Church History

"When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself."⁵

—Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)



Further Commentary

"We can understand what love is by looking at Jesus' example. He laid down his life for us. We ought to be prepared to do the same for one another. While the necessity of laying down our lives for one another is rare, the necessity of helping meet one another's needs is not. The true test of a Christian's love is not his words (loving with 'words' or 'tongue') but his willingness to sacrifice for the sake of his brother... to love 'with actions and in truth.'"⁶

—David Walls and Max Anders

Further Commentary

“The expression ‘because we love our brothers’ uses a present tense form of the verb ‘to love,’ indicating that the author is stressing that ongoing love for fellow believers is the mark of those who have passed from death to life...it is by their love for fellow believers that his readers may be assured that they know God and experience eternal life. It is those who have remained in the parent community... who truly know God and experience eternal life.”⁷

—Colin G. Kruse

Voices from the Church

“Christian love is never theoretical or abstract; it is always practical.”⁸

—Alexander Strauch

When we reflect on *how* God gives us new life in Christ, we can see why love is one of its expected fruits. Our salvation rests in God the Father providing His Son, who took on flesh, was rejected, and died an agonizing death on the cross for the sins of the world. When we consider what God has done for us out of His love and grace, the only reasonable response is love. We love because we have been loved (1 John 4:19).

Our salvation compels us to love God in return, but it does not stop there. We also love what He loves, or more precisely, those whom He loves. This is why evidence of our new life is not just our love for God but our love for the church—His Son’s bride. This is not to say that we don’t love unbelievers as well. We are to love our neighbors (Mark 12:31) and our enemies (Matt. 5:44). But our love should be different for the church. Just as we are to love our spouse and children in a different and deeper way from others, we are to love believers differently than unbelievers.



How have you seen the Spirit’s fruit of love worked out in your life?

Just as the positive fruit of love is evidence of our new spiritual DNA, so are the continual expressions of the deeds of the flesh evidence of a lack of transformation. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught on this problem:

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:20-22)

The scribes and the Pharisees were religious—very religious. They tithed down to the spices in their cabinets. They strived to follow every single rule in the Scriptures precisely, even developing additional rules. The scribes and Pharisees were the experts in religion. If anyone could be called righteous, it was them. Yet Christ said that their righteousness, as impressive as it seemed, was not enough. Salvation required a greater righteousness.

The problem was that the scribes and Pharisees were too religious. They didn’t just cling to it, they rested in it. They believed that their efforts to be righteous would save them, so they poured all they had into being perfectly righteous. But that is where they stumbled. They failed to see that salvation is not a matter of obedience—it’s a matter of grace. We can never be good enough for God because “good enough” is perfection. And no matter how hard the scribes and Pharisees tried, they could never be perfect (Ps. 14:3).

Sure, from the outside, they appeared to live far more righteously than all the others in Israel, and they took pride in that. They were known for it. They flaunted it. They delighted when people marveled at their righteousness, and they looked down on others for their failure to live as they did. But they failed to grasp their need for God's grace and they failed to love others.

This is why Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees so strongly with a series of "woes" in Matthew 23. They weren't marked by love as a true follower is (John 13:35); they were marked by their own effort. When we come to Christ in faith, trusting His perfect work is our only hope, a great and glorious exchange occurs. Our burden of sin is taken and Christ's righteousness is given to us (2 Cor. 5:21). In the moment we believe, we are granted right-standing with God and our righteousness does exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees because it is Jesus' righteousness. Our church attendance, tithing, and proper vocabulary are not what save us, and neither are they what define us.

The mark of a true follower of Christ is the righteousness of Christ. And the righteousness of Christ bears the fruit of the Spirit. At the top of that list is love. And this love sets us apart from the world and identifies us as God's children.



How should the reality of Christ's right-standing with God given to us by faith change the way we think about loving others?

3. The way of love is marked by action (1 John 3:16-18).

A group of angry pirates surround their captain and a bound-up naval commander. The ship's captain yells out battle cries for his men to rally around: "Let's feed him to the sharks!" and "Take all of his gold!" With each declaration, the parrot on the captain's shoulder repeats each phrase, but he doesn't stop there. Unfortunately for the captain, the parrot begins to rattle off other statements he is used to hearing from his master—derogatory comments about the crew and his plans to hide the gold from them.

This is a scene from a clever commercial by GEICO. The narrator then says: "If you're a parrot, you repeat things. It's what you do," followed by the company's pitch: "If you want to save [money] on car insurance, you switch to GEICO. It's what you do."

Commercials like this build on a common observation. Certain types of beings do certain types of things. Parrots parrot. Flowers flower. Cheerleaders cheer. It's what they do.

Christians love. It's what we do. And John made this crystal clear in his letter:

Further Commentary

"A proverb of Lower-Congo in the Democratic Republic of Congo says, *Mbua Malu Maya, kalendi diata nzila zole ko*, meaning 'A dog has four legs, but cannot walk on two paths at the same time.' The proverb illustrates the need to make a choice. There is a radical difference between the children of God and the children of the devil. People who belong to God are characterized by love for other people. People who belong to the devil are characterized by hate. Love breeds life. Hate breeds death. We either belong to God and follow the path of love or we belong to the devil and follow the path of hatred. Each person must choose which path to follow. It is a great privilege to be called the sons and daughters of a great King. God lavished his love on us, not by our merits or what we had done, but by his mercy and loving kindness. We were bought with a costly price through the death of Jesus Christ. We are no longer strangers in God's presence but are children of God. Because of this, we should not continue sinning against God. Instead, we should love God with a whole heart. As children of God, we will live like we are his heirs, putting brotherly love into action. Children of the devil are characterized by selfishness, hatred, and violence. If we say that we love other people but do nothing to show that love, we are not behaving as if we live in God's household. True children of God show genuine love in how they behave. Those in God's family will find it impossible to keep sinning (1 John 3:9) because hate is replaced by love."⁹

—Africa Study Bible

Further Commentary

"We are to look to Christ as our model (3:16). If we imitate him, we will be prepared to make sacrifices for the sake of others. These will not just be spiritual sacrifices, but may also involve us sharing our material possessions with those who are in need."¹⁰

—Ramy Lal Fernando

Voices from the Church

"God teaches us *love* by putting some *unlovely* people around us. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving to you."¹¹

—Rick Warren

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

My kids and I have been studying astronomy this semester, and we recently took the obligatory trip to a planetarium to see the stars and learn more about the planets. While there, my oldest child bought a baton-looking clear tube from the gift shop. It has a bunch of wires and a small set of lights within it. When you touch it with one hand, nothing happens. But if you hold on to one end and then touch the other side of the rod, it lights up and makes a loud (and annoying) noise.

We later figured out you can touch the rod to another person to make the stick light up. However, you have to complete the circuit. Not only do you have to touch the rod you are holding to the other person, but you also have to be touching that person with your other hand, elbow, foot, or some other part of your body. The light and sounds are evidence that the circuit is complete.

We can picture God's love as a circuit as well. In the next chapter, John explains that we love others because God first loved us (1 John 4:11,19). God sent His Son to show us His love for us. Christ walked to the cross to show His love for us. God raised Jesus from the dead to provide a way for us to experience this love. He has started the circuit of love we experience through Christ, but it ought not stop with us.

We are conduits of God's love. It is not a power we can provide on our own. Only through a connection with the power source can we bring true acts of sacrificial, life-giving love to a lost and weary world. We must pass on the baton of love to those around us and complete the circuit of God's provision through our hands and feet, bringing the light of Christ to the desperate people around us.



What are some things that might prevent us from showing God's love to others?

So how do we complete this circuit? How do we love others with God's love? How do we overcome the potential barriers to our obeying the call to love? Here are five actions to consider as we strive to show the world around us the love of Christ:

1. Pray. This is our starting point. Regardless of our stage of life, income level, or ministry training, we can pray. And even when we are stymied by the needs around us and have no idea what to pray for, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. He knows the will of the Father. He also knows our heart and connects the two in a way we could never utter on our own.

2. **Pay attention.** We don't need to look far to see people with needs. But sometimes we get so busy that we overlook the opportunities to love right at our doorstep. Sometimes we simply have to open our eyes, slow down, and pay attention to what is going on all around us.
3. **Proclaim the gospel.** Christ met many physical needs during His ministry on earth, but He met spiritual needs as well. As we love the people around us, both those who know Christ and those who don't, let's be a continual source of gospel truth. The enemy seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10), and he most often attacks our view of God and tries to cast doubt into our hearts regarding God's goodness and His unending love for us. Let's not stop at loving others through meeting physical needs; let's tell others how much God loves them and how they can experience His love through Christ.
4. **Provide for those who are where you cannot be.** We certainly cannot meet every need that comes our way. Some seasons of life do not allow us to be the physical hands and feet of love, but others who are capable of serving need help. We all need to be involved in the financial support of missionaries and organizations who are faithfully bringing the love of Christ to every tongue, tribe, and nation.
5. **Publish the needs to others.** As you see needs, pray for them and provide for them, but don't forget to tell others too. Invite others to get involved. We love out of obedience and gratitude, and there are great rewards both on this earth and eternally for those whose lives are marked with love. Let's give those opportunities to others who have yet to experience the blessings of pouring out our lives for the sake of others.



Why must the way of love be marked by action?



What are some ways you can act in love for the benefit of your community?

Conclusion

The desire of a Christ-follower is to honor God with our every moment, and the (super)natural fruit of His disciples will be a deep and abiding love for others. As recipients of the merciful and powerful love of Christ, let's walk forward—marked by love—in grateful worship, allowing the love of God to spill over to those we encounter.

CHRIST CONNECTION: In teaching the church about the nature of true love, the apostle John reminded Christians that love is not merely a matter of feelings or words but of action. Love was demonstrated and defined most clearly by Jesus' action of laying down His life for His people.



Voices from Church History

"If we have got the true love of God shed abroad in our hearts we will show it in our lives. We will not have to go up and down the earth proclaiming it. We will show it in everything we say or do."¹²

—D. L. Moody (1837-1899)

99 Essential Christian Doctrines

19. *God Is Love*

To say that God is love is to say that God is the essence of love, or that perfect love both resides and resonates within God Himself—one God in three Persons. The imperfect love that human beings share between one another is a dim reflection, a sign that points to the perfect love that resides within God. The greatest act of love by God toward humans isn't the giving of earthly goods but the giving of Himself in Christ so that we might become reconciled to Him.

Additional Resources

Toward Love in Action

References

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5. Corrie ten Boom with Elizabeth and John Sherrill, *The Hiding Place* (Bloomington, MN: Chosen Books, 2015) [eBook].
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9. *Africa Study Bible* (Oasis International, 2015), 1878.
10. Ramlal Fernando, "1 John," in *South Asia Bible Commentary*, ed. Brian Wintle (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015), 1759.
11. Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012) [eBook].
12. Dwight L. Moody, *The Overcoming Life* (Orlando: Bridge-Logos, 2007), 336.



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Study Material

- "The Church in John's Epistles"—Pages 150-153 from "The Church in the General Epistles" by Ray F. Van Neste in *The Community of Jesus*
- "Figuring Out What Love Really Is"—Article by Cole Ryan; find a link to this article at GospelProject.com/AdditionalResources
- Previous *Biblical Illustrator* articles, including "Children' in John's Letter," can be purchased, along with other articles for this quarter, at LifeWay.com/BiblicalIllustrator. Look for Bundles: The Gospel Project.

Sermon

Russell Moore: GMAA High School Conference Session 1

Find a link to this at GospelProject.com/AdditionalResources

Tip of the Week

Provide Resources for Guests

An inexpensive way to make first-time guests feel welcome is to provide them copies of your Bible study materials. Based on past experience, make your best guess about how many first-time guests you can expect each quarter, and order that number of Personal Study Guides (or request them from your leaders). What about people who have not yet visited your group? You can encourage them to visit by providing copies of the Personal Study Guide.