

**SERMON:** What is Love?

June 10, 2018

**SERIES:** Love Where You Live

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Jamie

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

**SCRIPTURE:**

*1 John 4:7-21.*

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

*<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*

*<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

**SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. God is Love.
- II. The love of God manifested in Jesus.
- III. The love of God manifested in us.

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. God is love and everything he does is loving. Do you believe this? What makes it difficult or easy to believe such a statement?
2. Re-read 1 John 4:9. In what ways is Jesus the greatest manifestation of God's love? How do each of these aspects of Christ's life demonstrate the great love of God for us?

His incarnation-

His life on earth-

His death on the cross-

His resurrection and glorification (seated in Heaven)-

When you think about or are asked about God's love for you what do you think of? Do you immediately think about Christ?

3. Re-read 1 John 4:11-16. Look at all the times the idea of "in us" is used. God and his love is IN us not just ON us. Why is this distinction so important? Do you believe the love of God is IN you? Why or why not?
4. "Perfect love casts out fear." When it comes to loving others what do you fear? Rejection? Loss of comfort or security? Failure to live up to a standard? God's judgment? Something else? How might meditating and believing in God's perfect love for you remove these fears?
5. "We love because he first loved us." It is essential that before you try to love others you allow yourself to be loved by God. Are you able to let yourself be loved by God today? What lies about yourself are you believing that might be getting in the way of trusting in God's deep personal love for you? What lies are you believing that might be preventing you from loving those around you?

Pray: Acknowledge that God is love. Confess any mistrust of God's love for you. Ask God to let his love overwhelm your mind and heart this week and empower you to love others.