



BIG IDEA

God's love changes how we love others.

BIBLE

1 John 4:7-12; John 3:16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Love isn't just something God does—it's who He is. God showed His love by sending Jesus to rescue us. When we know God's love, it frees us from fear and helps us show real love to the people around us.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

HOOK – What do you love?

- I want to start with a simple question: What do you love?
 - *SPEAKER NOTE: Take a couple of answers from the crowd. Consider having a white board on stage and write the answers down. OR if you want something a little more interactive, have your white board in the hang out space before serving, write "What do you love?" across the top, and leave a few markers out for students to leave their answers.*
- So we have a lot of different answers: God, family, your dog, video games, tacos, etc...
 - Let me ask you, do you love your family the same way you love tacos?
 - *SPEAKER NOTE:: play off of this idea for a little while.*
- After discussing love for just a couple of minutes, we can all see that love is a complex thing.
 - But here's what we do know. Love is powerful! And everyone in the world is seeking it. Whether we are looking for something to love or we want to be loved.
 - Isn't that fascinating? It seems to be something we all share and I think that's because it's a part of how we were made to experience God.

- The truth is, so many of us look for love in the wrong places, people, or things. Everyone is searching, but if you want to find love, the Bible teaches us that we should search for God because **SLIDE – GOD IS LOVE.**
- What does that mean?
 - The Bible doesn't just say that God *loves*—it says that *God is love*. That means everything He does comes from His love. God's love isn't based on how good we are or how much we deserve it. It's who He is.
- Let's open our Bibles to 1 John 4 together.
- **SLIDE – 1 JOHN 4:7-12 NIV**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- There's a lot here, but there are a couple of things that seem to jump right off the page:
 - God is love.
 - Our love for one another comes from God.
 - The only reason we have any idea what love is, is because God has revealed His love to us through Jesus.
 - God's love isn't just about warm feelings; it's about self-sacrifice.
- If God's love is in us, it *changes* how we treat people—even people who are hard to love.
 - When someone talks behind your back, when your sibling annoys you, or when a friend disappoints you, God's love pushes us to forgive, to serve, to stay kind.
- Gospel connection:
 - The same love that sent Jesus to the cross is the love He pours into our hearts. His love sets us free from fear—fear of rejection, fear of not being enough—and gives us strength to love others without needing anything back.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

So, how do we respond to a loving God ? How does he want us to share that love?

1. SLIDE – SHOW LOVE FIRST

- Don't wait for kindness, initiate it.

2. SLIDE – LOVE WHEN IT'S HARD

- Start by praying for that person you don't get along with

3. SLIDE – LOVE THROUGH ACTION

- Do something small this week that costs you time or comfort to help someone else.

Remember: **SLIDE - God's love changes how we love others** because it reminds us who we are loved by.

Closing

- Lead a short prayer:
 - God, thank you for showing your love through Jesus. Help us love others the way You've loved us – even when it's not easy. Let Your love shine through our words, actions, and attitudes this week. Amen.