

The Church of Our Saviour

Practicing God's Graciousness

Adult Christian Formation

Lenten Bible Study Week 2: The Fruit of the Spirit

Please read the following passage from 1 John and consider the questions below.

1 John 4:7-21 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Week 2: Study Guide and Discussion Questions

1. John admonishes us to love one another because love is from God – why is that a good reason to love?
2. Are there times in our lives when it is hard to love others as God loves us? Will you share?
3. The love described as the nature of God in this passage is *agape* love. What does that mean to you? Are there other forms of love that you can name or have experienced?
4. What do you think the opposite of love is? Please explain.

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5. How has God's love been revealed to us?

6. In what ways has that revelation of love defined the elements and actions of a life of love?

7. In what ways have you experienced God's love in action in your life?

8. How have you shared God's love this week?

Read each of these passages describing various aspects of God's love and complete the table.

Passage	Describe the key point(s) you learned?	How can you use this knowledge in your own life?
Rom 8:31-39		
Hebrews 12:1-6		
1 John 3:16-24		
1 Corinthians 13:1-13		
Matthew 5:43-48		
John 13:34-35		
John 14:15-21		