THE LIVING ROOM SERIES

WHAT LOVE IS

The Letters of 1, 2, 3 John

kelly minter
INTRODUCTION

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What do you hope to gain from this study and the time spent together?

How do you react to the idea that genuine love has substance and definition?

Which is most difficult for you to grasp or embrace: Jesus’ complete humanity or divinity? Why?

John shares “that which was from the beginning.” How does the eternal nature of the gospel ground you in a world that is fleeting and temporary?

In what ways do you struggle in a culture that often communicates that what a person believes doesn’t matter, truth is ever-changing, or the gospel is narrow and confining?

How is believing in Jesus a progressive and dynamic process rather than a static past accomplishment?
GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What was the most impacting moment for you this week? It may be a Bible verse, principle, prayer experience, revelation, new understanding, or conviction.

How can you be more intentional about giving yourself to Christian fellowship? What keeps you from fellowship (fear, past wounds, insecurity, busyness, selfishness)?

Did you learn anything new about John’s earlier life as a young disciple that surprised you? (Week 1, Day 1)

What about Jesus being the Word of Life gives you hope in trying circumstances? (p. 17)

Describe a time when you minimized or justified sin in your life. How did this attitude diminish your gratitude for Christ forgiving your sins and cleansing you from all unrighteousness? (See 1 John 1:9, p. 34.)
VIEWER GUIDE
WALKING IN THE LIGHT

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What was the most impacting moment for you this week (in video or print study)?

Turn to Isaiah 5:20 and discuss specific examples in your daily environment of light being cast as darkness and darkness being cast as light. How do you discern what is true darkness and true light?

Kelly spoke about the interesting reality that fellowship with one another is a direct result of walking in God’s light (1 John 1:7). How have you seen this play out in your own life where walking in the light of obedience opened up deeper fellowship with others?

How has seeing Christ as your Advocate and the propitiation for your sins taken your love and appreciation for Him to a deeper place? (p. 43)

John writes about our sins being forgiven as an action that’s already been completed through Christ (perfect indicative). At what points in your life do you struggle to believe you really have been forgiven? (p. 57)
VIEWER GUIDE

KNOWLEDGE AND ASSURANCE

Affirmation #1 What we believe about ________________.

Affirmation #2 That we obey His ________________.

Affirmation #3 The way we love ________________.

Affirmation #4 Other ________________ affirm Jesus in us.

Affirmation #5 The ________________ ________________.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What was the most impacting moment for you this week (in video or print study)?

Which of the five affirmations from the video gives you the greatest sense of assurance?

Have you fretted over whether or not you really know God? How did today’s teaching give you more confidence? In what areas are you still unsettled?

How does the pre-gnosticism that had infiltrated the church of John’s day remind you of similar deceptions in current culture?

What most encourages you about the anointing you have from the Holy Spirit? What challenges you most about it? (p. 75)
VIEWER GUIDE

ABIDE, DWELL, REMAIN

Jesus is the ________________

God, the Father is the ________________

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

How does your daily reality reflect the premise that the pressure is off you and on Jesus as the vine and His Father as the gardener? In what ways do you see yourself constantly striving, fretting, and attempting to control?

How have you experienced the truth that obeying God doesn’t earn God’s love but obedience does allow us to walk more fully in the benefits of His love? (See John 15:9.)

John wrote that we are overcomers because of Jesus. If you feel comfortable, encourage the group by share about something the Lord helped you overcome, something you couldn’t have overcome on your own. (p. 107-108)

Describe a situation where you distinctly felt different from the world and its desires—where you realized how not-of-this-world you really are (p. 109).

What do you most fear in your relationship with God? (p. 116) How does the fact that the love of God casts out fear bring assurance in your relationship with God? (p. 114-115)
LOVE

#1 Obedience is built on trust and trust is vital to ________________.

#2 Obedience is built on ________________.

#3 Obedience is built on what God wants to ________________.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What was the most impacting moment for you this week (in video or print study)?

In a culture of countless opinions regarding what love is, how has your definition of love either broadened or narrowed through this study?

Why do you suppose God sometimes demands painful or sacrificial obedience of His children? How have these experiences of obedience served as meaningful expressions of how we love God back?

How have you come to a better understanding of the “sin that leads to death”? (p. 142)

How has the Holy Spirit rescued you by refusing to let you continue in a specific sin? (p. 144)
VIEWER GUIDE

SESSION 7 KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS

#1 Mary ________________ at Jesus’ feet.

#2 Mary ________________ at Jesus’ feet.

#3 Mary ________________ at Jesus’ feet.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

For you, what in your alabaster jar do you struggle to give to Jesus?

What do you think you are missing about Jesus that Mary of Bethany understood? (Therefore making her want to spill out what was in her jar for Him.)

Why do you think the focus on our idols—trying to stop worshiping them—is so self-defeating?

How can turning our attention to sitting at Jesus’ feet, falling at Jesus’ feet and worshipping at Jesus’ feet be a truer remedy?

In what area(s) of your life do you struggle with the desire to be “first place”? (p. 172)

What has been the single most significant concept of this study for you? (p. 176)