



Life Group Discussion Guide

**Expect the Unexpected**

**Advent- Love Revealed**

**1 John 4:7-12**

Pastor Matthew Huston

December 6, 2020

**Main Thought:** Love is revealed in Jesus and perfected when we love others.

**Sunday Outline:**

- Love originated with God. (4:7-8)
- Love is revealed in Jesus. (4:9-10).
- Love is perfected when we love. (4:11-12).

**Welcome & Fellowship Time (Suggested Time 10 Minutes)**

**Open in Prayer**

**Week in Review: (Suggested Sharing Time 10 minutes)**

- As you reflect on the past month and our focus on prayer, how have you been able to implement the ACTS model of prayer into your daily routines?

**Discussion Starter: (Suggested Time 5 minutes)**

- Take some time to share your stories of dating, engagements, and weddings. What is it that you have learned about love from your days as a teenager to adulthood?

**Sermon Review: (Suggested Time 20 minutes)**

Review 1 John 4:7-12.

- How is the superficial love we are presented with in the world different from the supernatural love of God?
- What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally as Father? Why is love a good test for whether someone knows God?
- How is the new life we live in Christ different from just being a religious ritual?
- How well do you display your love for God in the choices you make and the actions you take?



Digging Deeper: (Suggested Time 15 minutes)

Read Luke 2:1-7 and discuss the following questions.

- What do you recall most about the first time you heard the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth? What about the Gospel accounts of Mary, Joseph and others have you grown to appreciate more over the years?
- As you think about the Gospel accounts of the Christmas story, where do you see the love of God shine through? What encouragement do you find from knowing God's love is woven throughout the Christmas accounts?
- Read Luke 2:29-35. What does Simeon's response to meeting the child Jesus acknowledge about the love of God? What does God's salvation reveal about your heart?

Application: (Suggested Time 10 minutes)

- God is love. It is His very nature to love. And throughout history He has sought to express that love to His creation. Ultimately, that expression came in the person of Jesus Christ. Christ came as salvation for the world. This Christmas, will you accept His gift of love and salvation and let the love of Christ fill your heart and life?
- How, during this time of Advent, can you follow the example of love displayed by Christ on the cross?
- Be an extender of God's love this week. Consider ways you might inject God's love into a loveless world. It could be in a card, a phone call, an apology, or an act of generosity. Let God's love be perfected in us as we love, as He first loved us!

Group Prayer Requests: (Suggested Time 10 minutes)

Spend time praying for each other & praying for application of the study in the lives of the group members. (Suggested time 10 minutes)