

4. Read 1 John 4:12, 16-18
 - a. How is love 'made complete / perfected' in us?
 - b. What is the positive result for us when this happens?
 - c. What is it that we do not fear as a result of this love?
 - d. Compare 1 Peter 2:17. What is the right way to fear God and what is the wrong way?

5. Read 1 John 4:19-21
 - a. Why is it important to see that our love is a response to God's love?
 - b. Why is someone who hates a fellow Christian, but claims to love God a liar?
 - c. How does this idea of 'not seeing God' relate back to verse 12?

Applying it to our frontlines and church life

6. What aspect of God's love might you talk with someone about in each of these situations:
 - a. a friend on your frontline who is feeling a bit despondent about life and its fleeting nature?
 - b. a friend on your frontline who is feeling isolated and lonely and as if no-one cares for them?
 - c. a church friend who is angry at another church friend, because they have been hurt by them?
 - d. a church friend who is reluctant to return to in-person church once all the restrictions are lifted, because they are more comfortable watching online services?

GROWTH TEAMS



PRAYER



CARE



SHARE

**Week Beginning
Sunday 2nd May 2021**

Growth Team News

Growth Teams are a great place to meet with others, build relationships of care, pray for one another and share our understanding of God's word with each other.

This week we continue our series on the second half of 1 John and looking at what love is. This week we see that love is from God. Indeed, it even says, "God is love."

With lockdown we have two Growth Teams running on Zoom:

Mon. 8:00pm *on Zoom*
Thu. 8.00pm *on Zoom*

Anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Paul (01843 592562) for more information or to join a team.

Love is... from God

John 4:7-21 (page 1227 in the church Bibles)

Space to take notes on the talk

_____ Love is from God:

- _____ is love
- The _____ shows us love
 - ✓ Love is _____
 - ✓ Love is _____
 - ✓ Love is _____
- What we _____ matters

Why Love _____?

- ✓ _____ of God
- ✓ _____ of Christ
- ✓ _____

Getting to know each other

- ❖ What is your favourite 'love song'?

Praise: Read Psalm 27

- Take it in turns to choose a verse and use it as the start of a short prayer of praise to God.

Thinking through the issues:

- What causes loneliness?
- What solutions to loneliness are people looking for?
- How well do these solutions work?

Responding to the talk

1. For those who heard the talk, what was the most memorable point made?
2. Read 1 John 4:7-11
 - a. How is the command in 4:7 different to similar commands in 2:10; 3:11, 16; 4:11,21?
 - b. Why is loving others so important for Christians?
 - c. What does that the cross shows us about God's love according to these verses?
 - d. Which of these aspects of love are we most grateful to God for?
 - e. Which of these aspects of love do we find hardest to imitate?
3. Read 1 John 4:12-16
 - a. Verse 12 echoes John 1:18. How do the two verses deal with the issue of 'not seeing God'? How are these ideas linked?
 - b. What things are required for God to live in us and we in God? (cf. 3:23)
 - c. How do these things relate to the 'antichrists'? (cf. 2:22-23)
 - d. Why is it essential to believe that Jesus is the Son of God?