



God Is Love
1 John 4
Small Group Plan

In my campus ministry days a song about love and ministry that our college students sang often was entitled “People To People.” Below are the words along with a link to an audio recording by a group from Columbia Christian College. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLE28qE54OU>

How do you share the love of Jesus with a lonely man ...
How do you tell a hungry man about the bread of life ...
How do you tell a thirsty man about the living water of the Lord ...
How do you tell him of His Word?

How do you tell a dying man about eternal life ...
How do you tell an orphan child about the Father's love ...
How do you tell a man who's poor about the wondrous riches of the Lord ...
How do you tell him of His Word?

How do you tell a loveless world that God himself is love ...
How do you tell a man who's down to lift his eyes above ...
How do you tell a bleeding man about the healing power of the Lord ...
How do you tell him of His Word?

Chorus:

People who know go to people who need to know ... Jesus
People who love go to people alone without ... Jesus
For there are people who need to see, people who need to love,
 People who need to know God's redeeming love.
People who see go to those who are blind without ... Jesus
And this is People to People, yes, People to People,
 All sharing together God's love.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Which is the more powerful motivator — love, fear, or hate? Explain.
- Describe how each of the three feels to those being motivated?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— WHAT LOVE IS —

1 John 4:7-8

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

- How does our culture define “love?” Give some examples.
- How does the true origin of love challenge the cultural definition of love?
- Which definition do you think is winning today God’s or the culture’s?
- If God were characterized by hatred rather than love how would it impact the world?

— WHAT LOVE DID —

1 John 4:9-10

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- Why is true love always initiated by God?
- How can the violence of the cross be called love?

— WHAT LOVE IS DOING —

1 John 4:11-12

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- How does God’s love touch people today?
- How does our love for each other make the invisible God visible to the world?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- John wrote three letters and one gospel, and he made a statement in his gospel that is almost identical to one he made in his 1 letter ... almost.

The difference contains a powerful lesson:

- ✓ John 1:18 **NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD**, *but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*
- ✓ 1 John 4:12 **NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD;** *but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*
- What is the difference between these two verses?
 - ✓ **NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD** ... (gospel) How did **JESUS** make God known?
 - ✓ **NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD** ... (letter) How do **WE** make God known?
- Close by asking God to shape us into **People Who Love People.**