

L.O.V.E.: Exemplar
I John 4:7-21
February 24, 2019

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. In this past month, we have considered four aspects of L.O.V.E. as Losing / Openness / Vulnerability & Value / Exemplar. How has your understanding and experience of God's love changed or been impacted?
2. What are some of our culture's narratives (messages) about love? What do they say about a person's identity, their relationship with others, the influence on our society?
3. Who are some people who have modeled love for you? What did they teach you about God's love?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read through the I John passage. Pastor Jonathan says this is an example of God's showing "First Love." Discuss what "First Love" and "Second Love" is. Where do we see examples of each?
2. What risks did God take to be the first to reach out in love?
3. How is knowing God's word and knowing God's heart similar and dissimilar? How have you experienced both?
4. I John 4:18 emphasizes that perfect love casts out fear. What kinds of fear might John be referring to? How can fear interfere or block out our experience of God?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Author Henri Nouwen states: "Knowing God's heart mean consistently, radically, and very concretely to announce and reveal that God is love and only love and that every time fear, isolation, or despair begins to invade the human soul, this is not something that comes from God." How might this apply to our lives and relationship with God?
2. Which people in your life have you been "entrusted" with? Take time to pray for them in your group.