

# WEEK 1

# GOD IS

## A THREE-WEEK SERIES

### ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. Why does John begin this passage by saying, "those who are loved, let us love one another?" How different would it all be if John had said, "let us love one another that we may be loved by God?"
2. There are different types of knowledge, aren't there? If you ask whether I know what a "brain freeze" is, I might say I do and describe it to you. A neuroscientist might answer the same question with more technical knowledge and describe exactly what happens to your meninges during a brain freeze. Both of these types of knowledge are different from the experiential type of knowledge that comes from having suffered from a brain freeze. When John says whoever loves "knows God" he uses the Greek work that means experiential knowledge. Why is this significant? What does it mean to experience God through loving others?
3. A lot of what John has to say about love in this passage comes directly from what he, a disciple of Jesus, heard Jesus say.  
Compare 1 John 4:9-10 with Jesus' words to Nicodemus recorded in John 3:16.  
Compare 1 John 4:11-12 with John 13:34-35  
Compare 1 John 4:13-16 with John 15:4-7  
Does it help to know that these concepts and even exact words about love came from Jesus himself?
4. In a recent lesson, we studied how Jesus' restored Peter. Jesus asked Peter if he loved Jesus three different times. When Peter said that he did, what did Jesus ask Peter to do? What is the greatest commandment? And what is the second greatest commandment that is like the first commandment? How does this line up with 1 John 4:11? It's repetitive, I know, but doesn't it help drive the point home? If God is love, and we know that love in an experiential way, how then, could we possibly not love one another?

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5. How does John say God will abide in us? What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit lets us know that God abides in us? Read Romans 8:16 and Romans 8:26-27 for two examples. How might this give us confidence on the day of judgment?
6. What does John mean when he says that God's love is perfected in us (vs 12) and that love is perfected with us (vs 17)?
7. Would you describe 1 John 4:19 as a good summary of all Christianity? Why or why not?
8. When there are people we do not get along with and do not like very much it is quite easy for us to say "God loves you" but quite difficult to add, "and so do I." Remember, again, our study on Jesus restoring Peter and the different Greek words for love and their meaning. John might as well be asking, "how can you say you have agape love for God when you can't even show philia love for God's children. Your brothers and sisters in Christ?" Consider the included meme which gets shared on social media quite often. While it's ok and even understandable that we get on each other's nerves sometimes, how is the overall message of the meme incor

"I love God but some of his children get on my last nerves."

Fix it, Jesus.

## STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. In the past two months, how have you seen evidence of God's presence through actions of love in your life? In what ways have they influenced you? How has witnessing those actions caused you to see God differently?
2. The presence of the Holy Spirit is a manifestation of God's love for us. This means that, giving our life to him, results in him living life with us. What does it tell you about his quality/characteristic of love?
3. The phrase WE ARE LIKE JESUS, can be a little bit overwhelming, yet empowering. Jesus came to earth to show us what true love looks like through the way he lived. What details about his love can you better understand when thinking about his interactions with other people?
4. Trusting the perfect love of Jesus can remove all fear and give total freedom. What does that tell you about the type of love God is/gives?

### **This week's Challenge:**

- In a journal, identify and write down at least two specific ways you see God's love displayed **each day**. Also include:
  - Why you see it as God's love
  - What that display of love tells you about who God is

## KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

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1. When you think about love, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Why? What would help you think about God when you think about love?
2. How do you know that God loves you? Why did God need to show His love to us in such a great way?
3. Do you know what unconditional love is? If not, ask your parents or older siblings what that means. Then see if you can answer who has unconditional love for you and think about some one that you love unconditionally.
4. Do you know someone who needs to know God's love this week? How can you share God's love with someone else?

### **Family Activities:**

- Great news! Minno Kids Church at Home is talking about LOVE this week as well! Go to <https://www.gominno.com/lp/church-at-home> and watch the video together as a family or let you kids watch it. This is a great way to jump into the LOVE topic for the week.
- In addition to the video, Minno Kids has a discussion guide that follows the lesson. Click [here](#) to see the at home guide!