



This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1 John 4:13–21 (NIV)

## ICE BREAKER

When you were a child, what was your biggest fear? (If you want: What is it now?)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Verse 13 starts with a great statement, "this is how we know." Eight times in the book this phrase is used because God doesn't want us to question our standing with Him, but to know it! How do you know that you abide & live in Him and He in you? Do you?
- 2) In verse 17, we are told that love is made complete -- the mutual love that we have for God and he has for us. And that we have confidence on the day of judgement. Do you ever think about giving an account of your life? How confident are you in such a reality?
- 3) Verse 18 explains that "Fear and love cannot coexist." In the sermon, Pastor Kevin talk about tracing the fear behind our fears and asking how God's love can eliminate that fear. Do you have an example of fear you would like to share?
- 4) Pastor Kevin also discussed us being fear eliminators by loving others well, and taking time to address their deep fears, not only with our lives, but with God's perfect love. Where can you be a fear eliminator?
- 5) Verses 19-21 simply state that the confidence we have in God's love is shown in how we love others. How do you struggle to love? The gap between your ability and God's availability in your life is where He puts His love on display!

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

- 1) There is always a gap between who God calls us to love and our natural ability to love them. It is in that gap that we have to admit we don't have the ability to love. Possibly confess that we don't want to love (we sometimes prefer bitterness, and anger.), Finally, submit to God's call to love, and rely on his love (v. 16). Where are the gaps the greatest for those God is calling you to love?
- 2) What fear do you need God's perfect love to eliminate? Would you ask him to help you receive his love in such a way that your fear is gone?