



No Fear?

Leader Guide – August 2, 2020

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

God's Love eradicates fear and elevates confidence to love others.

- Our confidence to love is God's love in us, vv. 13-16
- Our confidence in God's love is because of Jesus' sacrifice for us. vv. 16-18
- Our claims about our love are confirmed in our love for others. vv. 19-21

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?

• The 8 references are:

- o 1 John 2:5–6 This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
- o 1 John 2:18 This is how we know it is the last hour. (Antichrists in the world)
- o 1 John 3:9–10 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.
- o 1 John 3:16 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
- o 1 John 3:19–20 19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
- o 1 John 3:24 And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.
- o 1 John 4:13 13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit.
- o 1 John 5:2 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.

• John states three realities for the Christian

- o The giving of the Spirit, v. 13
- o The seeing and witnessing, v.14
- o The knowing and relying, v. 16

• *If people in your group are don't know then point out v. 15, that God's invitation to his love is open to anyone who will respond.*

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?

- This is a heavy statement and might talk all of the groups time.
- Pastor Kevin made the point in the sermon that his confidence wasn't in his good works or his excuses, but only in God's provision of Jesus.
- To help, you can explain that Jesus took our punishment so that we don't have to endure. This is what the word propitiation means (translated atoning sacrifice in NIV). See 1 John 2.2, and 4:10-11.

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?

- The example I shared was something like this...I fear losing my job. The fear behind that is not having money. The fear behind that is not being able to pay rent. The fear behind that is getting put on the street. The Fear elimination through God's love was through his people. I gave the example of someone putting us up for a short season after seminary.
- The other example was never marrying and have the family of God to fill that void.

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?

- I gave examples of husbands and wives eliminating fear in the other by loving them with words of affirmation and actions of love. The words and actions not only addressed various insecurities, but sought to actually to eliminate them.
- I gave examples of parents to children too.

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) Andrew asked us to imagine what would change if we loved one another like God loves us. What did you imagine would change in your family? Your marriage? Our campus and community? Our world? Would you share those with your group?

2) Andrew also said we are the window the through which the world sees God. He went on to say, do whatever it takes to make sure that window is clean. What do you need to do? Who do you need to forgive? Where might you need to apologize?