

Advent- Love
1 John 4:7-11

1. Share a time with your group when you felt compassion fatigue. You were tired and did not have a lot of love to give. How did you handle that? What did you see God doing?
2. Read 1 John 4:7-8. Since God is the source of love, what does it look like for you to receive love from Him and be ready to give it to others? Why is it important to know and love God first?
3. Read 1 John 4:9-10. Since God is the essence of love, discuss how He 'manifested' Himself to us. How do you 'live through Him' today? How do you feel about the fact that Jesus became the one who bore the wrath of God in your place? How does it change us?
4. Read 1 John 4:11. Discuss the following concepts:
 - a. Loving others is a process ("*ought to*"), just as it was for the disciples.
 - b. Loving others requires prayer; knowing and communicating with God about what you see.
 - c. Loving others is hard; understanding what to expect.

Application

Take a few minutes to quietly pray and tell God if you're feeling compassion fatigue. Ask Him to inspire you anew to love others well, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.

Message Slides

Advent- Love 2021

1 John 4:7-11

Big Idea: The ever-present, sacrificial love of God, helps me to love others.

I. The Source of Love (v.7-8)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

II. The Essence of Love (v. 9-10)

"By this the love of God was manifested among us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

A. Ever-Present

B. Sacrificial

Colossians 1:21-22

"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,..."

Big Idea: The ever-present, sacrificial love of God, helps me to love others.

III. The Result of Love (v. 11)

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

1. It's a Process

2. It's by Prayer

Richard Loveless

"If all regenerate church members in western Christendom were to intercede daily simply for the most obvious spiritual concerns visible in their homes, their workplaces, their local churches and denominations, their nations, and the world and the total mission of the body of Christ within it, the transformation which would result would be incalculable. Not only would God certainly change those situations in response to prayer- we have Christ's word that if we ask in his name he will do more than we ask or think- but the church's comprehension of the task would attain an unprecedented sharpness of focus."

III. The Result of Love (v. 11)

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

3. It's Hard.

John 17:18- "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

Image- Bonhoeffer