



God Is Love January 18, 2026

1 John 4:7-11

Main Point

By nature, God is love. This love is demonstrated in His sending Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins.

Part 1: Master Teacher (10 Minutes)

Introduction

“If someone asked, ‘How do you know God?’ how would you answer?”

John teaches that the clearest evidence that we truly know God is how we love others.

Biblical Teaching

1. Love Originates in God (v.7–8)
 - “Love is from God” → love doesn’t begin with us; it flows from Him.
 - Knowing God is not primarily intellectual but relational. Love is evidence that we belong to Him.
2. Love Demonstrated by Christ (v.9–10)
 - God’s love is not an idea—it’s action.
 - God sent His Son and Jesus gave His life.
 - Love is self-giving, sacrificial and redemptive.
3. Love as Our Witness (v.11)
 - John makes it plain: if God has loved us like this, we ought to love one another.
 - Our love validates our testimony.
 - People know we are disciples of Jesus by our love.

Takeaway

- Knowing God is proven in showing love.
- This fulfills the mission of FBC:
 - Love God → receive His love.
 - Love People → reflect His love.
 - Make Disciples → invite others into His love.

Part 2: Group Discussion (25 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance

- Aim for stories, reflections, and next steps—not theological debate
- Keep discussion grounded in the text. Push toward real-life application.
- Use follow-ups like: “Can you give an example?” or “What would that look like this week?”

Discussion Questions

1. Knowing God Through Love

- According to verses 7–8, love is evidence of knowing God. What are some practical ways you’ve seen love (or lack of it) reveal someone’s spiritual maturity?
- How does it challenge you personally to think that your love for others reflects how well you know God?

2. Experiencing God’s Love Personally

- Verses 9–10 show God’s love in sending Jesus. When was a time you experienced God’s love in a personal and life-changing way?
- How can we regularly remind ourselves (and each other) of the depth of God’s sacrificial love?

3. Loving Others Relationally

- John says, “If God loved us, we also ought to love one another.” What makes loving others difficult in real life situations (family, coworkers, church members)?
- What is one relationship in your life right now where God may be calling you to extend His love in a sacrificial or intentional way?

4. Love and Evangelism

- How does showing love open the door for conversations about Jesus?
- Share a story where an act of love led to a spiritual conversation.
- Who is one person outside our Life Group that you can show Christ’s love to this week in a tangible way?

Next Steps & Call to Action (5 minutes)

Facilitator Closing Thought:

Love is not only what God does—**it is who He is**. When we know Him, love naturally overflows from our lives. This week, let’s commit not only to talk about God’s love but to show it in ways that point others to Christ.

Action Step:

Each group member identifies **one person** (neighbor, coworker, family member, friend) they will intentionally show God’s love to this week—and be prepared to share next week.

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for His love in Christ.
- Pray for strength to love others well.
- Pray for opportunities for love to open the door to evangelism.