

## **“The Evidence of Love”**

### **Children of God #2**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In our current series, we are learning what it means to be “Children of God.” We can see that we are God’s children through the evidence of His love for us. We see this in several ways. In this study we’ll consider three things that show evidence of God’s love; the commitment of God to us and our commitment in return, the change God’s love creates in our attitudes and actions, and the power of God’s love that compels us to choose Him over the world.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Are there any special or unique ways you demonstrate love to your family?

## **STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)**

### **God’s Commitment to us; Our Commitment to God**

#### **Q1. Read 1 John 2: 1-6**

John’s tenderness in these verses is itself a reflection of God’s love. What are the actions of Jesus in verses 1 and 2 that demonstrate the depth of His love for us? What range of emotions do you feel as you consider Jesus’ expressions of love for you?

#### **Q2. Read Psalm 103:17; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:34-39**

Psalm 103 and Jeremiah 31 tell us that there is no end to God’s love for us. Paul continues the theme of God’s love in Romans 8:34-39. What is included in his list of things that might threaten to separate us from the love of Christ? Verses 38 and 39 contain another list concluding that nothing in all creation can separate us from God’s love. To what do we owe our ability to conquer all these things (verse 37)? What things do you feel might personally threaten to separate you from His love? What actions can you take to overcome those threats?

### **The Light of Love Changes our Walk and Talk**

#### **Q3. Read 1 John 1:5; Leviticus 19:17; 1 John 2:7-14 & 4:20**

What is the profound distinction John makes between light and darkness in 1 John 1:5? Now consider Leviticus 19:17, 1 John 2:9, 11 and 1 John 4:20. The word for brother<sup>1</sup> used by John can mean either kinsman or fellow believer. Why do you think John sees our attitude and behavior towards family and fellow believers as an indicator of

our love for God? John says in verse 11 that those who hate their brothers are blind and don’t know where they are going. Where does such hatred lead us in terms of our relationship to God?

<sup>1</sup>Greek -adelphos

### **We Choose God over the World**

#### **Q4. Read 1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:1-2**

When God’s love is present in our lives our natural response is to love in return. But John identifies three categories of things that compete for our affection (1 John 2:16)? What would you include in these categories- the things we physically crave, things we see that we “must have” and things that make us feel prideful? Colossian 3 tells us we should seek “things that are above” rather than things on the earth. What are some of the “things that are above” that we should be pursuing?

## **WRAP-UP**

Jesus has given us evidence of His everlasting love. Not only was He our atoning sacrifice on the cross, but He continues to advocate for us before the Father. Our response to this love is to obey His commands. Chief among those commands is to love one another. If we walk in the light of God’s love, we will love our brothers but if we hate our brothers we are walking in darkness. The light of God’s love at work in our lives will change our attitude and behavior towards others and towards worldly things. There are many things in the world competing for our affection, but we must choose God over those things and set our minds on things above with Christ if we are to walk in His light.

### **Memory Verse**

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*  
*1 John 2: 1-6 NIV*

## **PRAYER (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: \_\_\_\_\_*

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*Challenge: Perhaps God is calling you to step out of the darkness of hatred into the light of love. If there is a relationship between you and a brother that you feel God is calling you to restore, seek out someone in your group to pray with, to encourage you and to hold you accountable in doing so.*

