

## **“Love Made Complete”**

### **Children of God #6**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The word love brings to mind a variety of images. In an anticipation of the celebration of love on Valentine’s Day we see hearts, flowers and candy everywhere. But God’s love it is a different kind of love, it is absolutely unique. What does God’s love look like? What did God intend to accomplish through His unique love? Is that goal complete or ongoing? And what role do we play? In 1 John chapter 4 we will consider how God’s love is made complete and how the goal of His love is accomplished.

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

Share a special memory of Valentine’s Day with your group.

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

### **Acknowledge who Jesus Christ is and what He did.**

**Q1. Read 1 John 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; John 1:14; John 8:58;** God’s sacrificial, unconditional love (agape) was not given without a purpose. It began when God sent his Son as a man (Timothy 2:5 & John 1:14) into this world. What important truth does 1 John 4:2-3 give us as a test of those who he calls “false prophets?” What is Jesus declaring in John 8:58? What questions come to mind when you attempt to grasp Jesus as fully God and yet fully man? How have other members of your group dealt with those or similar questions? Do you feel there are truths about God that you may not be able to fully comprehend?

### **Receive the love of God into our lives.**

**Q2. Read 1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16-17; Ephesians 3:14-19** God knew what was needed to reconcile mankind to himself and acted out of love to make reconciliation possible. What does 1 John 4:10 reveal as Jesus’s mission as an expression of God’s deep love for us? Although all of us know John 3:16, take a moment to discuss the love it took to send an only son to be a sacrifice offered, not only for those who would accept him, but also to those who would reject him. Knowing God’s great love for you personally, how are you doing with receiving it?

### **Share the love of God with others.**

**Q3. Read 1 John 4:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Colossians 3:12-14**

We cannot give what we ourselves have not received, but what does 1 John 4:16-17 tell us is the source of the love we have in us? If you have ever tried to make yourself love someone more, you might have found it difficult, if not impossible. What hope does 1 Thessalonians 3:12 offer those who wish to love more? Colossians 3:12-14 describes attributes that we are to “put on”, and concludes with love which binds everything together. What do you think is involved in “putting on” these attributes so that it is not something done by your own power, but by God in you?

## **WRAP-UP**

God’s unique, unconditional, Agape (love) came to us in the form of his Son. The atoning sacrifice of Jesus, both fully God and fully human, was the only means by which we could be reconciled to God. When we recognize that and receive that gift of love personally, the purpose of God’s love is accomplished. Once we have received God’s love we are able to share that with others by loving them. And in this way we spread the good news that God’s love and reconciliation is available to them as well.

### ***Memory Verse***

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. *1 John 4:10 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: Ask God to give you a greater understanding of His love for you and the ability to grasp how great His love is for you and to have a greater capacity to receive that love.*

## Q1

1 John 4:1-6 ESV - 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. John 1:14 ESV - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 8:58 ESV - 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

1 Timothy 2:5 ESV - 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

## Q2

1 John 4:9-10 NIV - 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:16-17 ESV - 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV - 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and

depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

## Q3

1 John 4:12-17 ESV - 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 ESV - 12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

Colossians 3:12-14 ESV - 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Prayers con't

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