

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Tis the Season to Love”

1 John 4:7-12

Week of December 4, 2016

CENTRAL TRUTH:

Christmas is the season to love those who are undeserving of your love.

GETTING STARTED:

1. When have you made a conscious choice to love in a difficult situation? Describe what happened.

TAKING IT HOME:

2. Read 1 John 4:7-12 and answer the following questions.
 - a. If a person states that he or she is a Christian, but shows a lack of love through his bitterness and unforgiving spirit, what are the possibilities of what that could mean? (vv. 7-8).
 - b. What are we to understand about the nature of God’s love from the phrases, “not that we loved God” and “but that He loved us?” (v. 10)
 - c. What does propitiation mean (v. 10) and how does sending his Son to be a propitiation for our sins show God’s love?
 - d. Why should Christians love one another (v. 11) and what is the result of loving one another (v. 12)?
3. What example of love has God set for us to follow? How should God’s love for you motivate you to love others who are undeserving of your love?
4. How have you seen God initiate love in your love? What was your response?
5. Is there a current situation where you are struggling to show love?

APPLICATION:

6. What specific steps will you take this week to demonstrate your love for an undeserving person? How can the small group hold you accountable?