



JOURNEY GROUPS

AUGUST 16 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

STUDY

Digging Deeper into 1 John 4:13–21:

1. Take some time to read through 1 John 4:13–21.
2. What do you think John means when he says, “We know and rely on the love God has for us” (v. 16)? What does it look like practically to rely on God's love rather than simply believe that God loves you?
3. What is the connection between God's love, our freedom from fear, and our ability to love others? Why do you think John connects these ideas?
4. What does the presence of the Holy Spirit have to do with our assurance that we belong to God? How have you experienced the Spirit's work in your own life?
5. Why is it significant that our faith is rooted in the testimony of those who actually witnessed Jesus rather than simply being a collection of spiritual ideas or good moral teaching?
6. What does it mean to genuinely acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God rather than merely agree with that statement intellectually? How should that belief affect the way we live?
7. The sermon began with, “What would change in your life if you weren't afraid?” What fear most often influences the way you make decisions, relate to people, or see yourself?
8. When you experience fear, insecurity, or the feeling that you're “not enough,” where do you instinctively run for comfort, approval, identity, or security?

9. What is the good thing you're looking for in that place? For example, if you run to achievement, you may be looking for significance. What are you ultimately hoping that thing will give you?
10. How can a good gift from God become something we use to replace God? Can you think of an example from your own life?
11. What happens to our relationships when we need a person to make us feel valuable, secure, or loved? How can that turn love into manipulation?
12. What would be different in your relationships if you genuinely believed, “Nothing I do can make God love me more, and nothing I have done in Christ can make Him love me less”?
13. Why do you think Christians sometimes have difficulty believing that God genuinely loves them—even when they know the gospel?
14. When you sin, what is your instinct: run toward God or hide from God? What does that reveal about what you believe about His character?
15. **Ephesians 3:18–19** talks about grasping and knowing the “width and length and height and depth” of Christ's love. What do you think keeps us from experiencing or resting in that love more deeply?
16. John uses extremely strong language in **verses 20–21**: “Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar.” What does this tell us about how seriously God takes our relationships with other believers?
17. Which of the following is easiest for you to excuse as “not really a big deal”: holding a grudge, gossip, avoiding someone, judging their motives, jealousy, competition, refusing to forgive, favoritism, criticism, or indifference to someone's needs? Why?
18. Think about a difficult relationship with another Christian. What does it look like to seek that person's good even if you don't currently feel affection toward them?
19. Think of one person in our church/community that might be easy for you to overlook, avoid, or keep at a distance? What might loving that person actually require from you?

PRAYER