

Message Notes | Reasons for the Season

Part 2: Love for the Hurting

1 John 4:7-12

→ you have a desire for to be loved

#1 Christmas is _____ that experiencing _____ is _____.

→ John's description of God - **vs. 8**

#2 The very _____ of God is _____.

→ how does hardship mesh with God's love?

→ the clear proof of God's love - **vs. 9-10**

#3 God's _____ for you is best _____ by what he was willing to _____.

→ a sacrifice was needed - **vs. 10, Hebrews 10:10**

#4 We are called to be _____ not _____.

→ what does love look like this Christmas? - **vs. 11-12**

Group Questions | Reasons for the Season

Part 2: Love for the Hurting

1 John 4:7-12

1. Hallmark Christmas movies are very popular. Why do you think people are so drawn to them?

Where do you see that same desire show up in your own life?

Does Christmas amplify that desire? Explain your answer.

2. **Read 1 John 4:7-12.** As you listen to these verses, what words, phrases, or thoughts stand out to you most? Why?

3. **Read 1 John 4:8.** John says that "God is love." He uses the Greek word agape. How would you define agape?

Are there areas of your life where you are called to agape love? What does that look like?

4. What's the difference between "God loves" and "God is love?"

Besides the cross, what is your favorite example of God's love found in the Bible?

5. We all have experienced hurt and suffering. How do we reconcile that with "God is love?" Are there certain ways you have seen God's love in seasons of suffering and hardship?

6. Why is the cross the greatest proof of God's love? Why was it necessary?

7. Who could you do a better job of loving in spite of it being complicated? What would loving them better look like?

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#2 The very essence of God is love.

→ how does hardship mesh with God's love?

→ the clear proof of God's love - **vs. 9-10**

#3 God's love for you is best understood by what he was willing to give.

→ a sacrifice was needed - **vs. 10, Hebrews 10:10**

#4 We are called to be conduits not containers.

→ what does love look like this Christmas? - **vs. 11-12**

Bible Reading for Today

1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

