



Blessed Assurance | Sunday, May 3, 2026

(5-10 min) Optional Ice Breaker: What's one rule (real or silly) that you actually enjoy following?

LEADERS: Please share these announcements with your home group!

Announcements

Night of Worship

Join us this Sunday, May 3, at 5:00 pm for our monthly Night of Worship. This is a special time for our church family to gather for extended worship and Elder-led prayer. Kids Care will be available for children ages birth through kindergarten on a first-come, first-served basis, so come early if you're planning to check in your little ones.

Celebration Service

Our next Celebration Service will be Sunday, May 17. This is a special service we have a few times a year to recognize new additions to families through birth or adoption or spiritual birth through baptism. If you would like to have your child announced or you would like to be considered for baptism, please email nicole@citizenschurch.com.

Please see previous guides or email [groups@citizenschurch](mailto:groups@citizenschurch.com) for information on Spring Serve Opportunities!

Read God's Word Aloud

1 John 4:17-5:3 (ESV)

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. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. **19** We love because he first loved us. **20** If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his



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brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Discuss God's Word and God's World

Important: *The goal is to use this Guide to spark sanctifying conversation and opportunities for intercessory prayer, not to “get through” every question like a checklist. Feel free to linger on the questions that best facilitate that for your group.*

Start here: *Take a few moments to share and reflect together on what stood out to you from this week's Bible passage and the sermon about it.*

- 1. In 1 John 4:17-18, what does John say is the result of love being “perfected” in us? Compare to Eugene Peterson's *The Message* version to help with your answer.*
- 2. According to verse 18, what is the relationship between love and fear?*
- 3. What fears tend to drive your obedience (fear of failure, judgement, rejection, consequences, etc.)? How do you try to conquer, ignore, or distract from those fears?*
- 4. How would your relationship with God change if you truly believed His love for you is complete and not conditional?*
- 5. How does being “loved by God” fundamentally change how we love others?*
- 6. What does 1 John 5:3 specifically say about God's commandments? In your life right now, where does obedience to God feel more like a burden than a joy?*



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7. God's love is free of fear and leads to an obedience that is free of burden. What is one way you can move from fear-driven obedience to love-driven obedience this week? Share with your group and ask them to follow up with you next week!

Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Praise God for His deep love for you, not because you have earned it, but because it is in His nature to love. Confess the ways in which you live as though His love for you is uncertain, allowing fear to shape your obedience and distance to grow in your relationship with Him. Ask Him to expose where fear still lingers and replace it with the truth that His perfect love casts out fear. Ask Him to help you see His commands not as pressure, but as invitations into joy, freedom and deeper relationship with Him. As He has loved you, ask Him to soften your heart toward others, especially those that are difficult to love. Thank Him for marking you with a love that is free of fear and obedience free of burden, declaring with your life that you are loved by Him and are learning to love like Him.

Family Memory Verse of the Month for May

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:36 (ESV)