



Blessed Assurance | Sunday, April 19, 2026

(5-10 min) *Optional Ice Breaker: What's a small but meaningful way someone has shown you love recently?*

LEADERS: Please share these announcements with your home group!

Announcements

Advancing the Gospel Among South Asians

Join us for a special training on Sunday, April 26 at 2 pm to learn how to love and engage our South Asian neighbors. Led by Ajay Thomas, this training will help you understand culture and grow in confidence as you share your faith (Kids Care available for birth–kindergarten). [Register today!](#)

Steps Orientation

Join us Monday, April 27 at 6:30 pm in the Students Room for our Summer Steps Orientation. This semester-long discipleship program helps you grow closer to God by addressing obstacles and building healthy spiritual rhythms. [Register today!](#)

Kids Volunteers

Did you know that each Sunday we have over 500 children in LittleCity and KidCity? Because of this, we have a big need for volunteers who can serve just two Sundays a month.

You can serve with your family, small group, or friends, and there are many ways to get involved—from leading a small group to holding babies. If you're interested, reach out to Sidney@citizenschurch for more information.

Please see previous guides or email groups@citizenschurch for information on Spring Serve Opportunities!



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Read God's Word Aloud

1 John 4:7-21 (ESV)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **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. **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 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.

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 verses 8 & 16 it says, "God is love". How is that different from saying "God is loving"?



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2. *In what ways does our culture embrace the idea that “God is love”? How have you seen yourself be tempted to embrace worldly views of this even as a believer?*

3. *Mike shared three elements that help us understand the depth of the statement, “God is love”. Which of these is hardest for you to believe and why?*

- *His love is initiating, not responsive.*
- *His love is sacrificial, not transactional.*
- *His love is propitiating, not expiating (not just cleared of wrongdoing, but fully reconciled).*

4. *Christians are called to love our brothers and sisters in Christ in this same way. Who is the person that you feel is too costly for you to love? In what ways are you withholding love because they haven’t deserved it yet?*

5. *Verse 12 says, “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” To know the love of God is to show the love of God. Where have you been striving for perfection in this (is that the goal)? What could it look like for you to rest in the promise of the Spirit bringing about this maturing work in your life, instead of relying solely on your own efforts?*

6. *We are reminded throughout the book of 1 John that God’s children abide in Him, and He abides in them. Where do you struggle to abide in Him or believe He abides in you? How can the reminder of the magnitude of God’s love for you turn your heart toward abiding in Him and loving others?*

7. *Based on this passage, what is one specific way you will prayerfully and intentionally show Christ-like love this week? Plan as a group how to encourage and follow up with one another in this.*

Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Praise God for His initiating, sacrificial, and propitiating love for you. Worship Him for the infinite, unconditional affection He has for you, that is not based on your own merit.

Pray that God would reveal any hardness of heart that may be preventing you from seeing the gospel clearly and loving your neighbor as He loves you. Confess and repent, asking and



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trusting that He will meet you in your need and continue to grow you in Christ-likeness. Ask Him to heal any past or present wounds you may have from hurt you have received at the hands of others, or you have caused yourself. Seek His wisdom and will in your relationships with others, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit working within you to help you love like Christ loves.

Family Memory Verse of the Month for April

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8b (ESV)