

PREACHING CURRICULUM

Love is Not an Option

1 John 3:11-24

'...love is a necessary and foundational aspect of biblical Christian life...'

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

What thoughts come to your mind as you consider just how fragile we really are?

How have you seen, experienced or participated in the natural bent of humanity towards meanness and cruelty?

How are Christians called to act differently? How is love a call upon the whole body of Christ?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Does an encounter with Ultimate Love, compel you to love? Why should it?

Do you love other people? How do you show that love?

How has blessing others been a blessing to you?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Contrast the world's definition of love as an emotion and the Christian definition of love. How is Christian love a verb?

How is genuine Christian love a mark of a genuine Christian?

Is true love affirmed in you by loving the fringes of society? Who are the fringes of society that you are in contact with, and what are some ways that you can specifically show them love?

Are you showing biblical (sometimes tough) love in your relationships? What is tough love, and why or when does it become necessary?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How is God affirming the authenticity of your faith as you love (working out your salvation) in a time that is highlighting where your hope truly is?