



# Intermediate Bible Class

March, April, May 2017



SPRING QUARTER

*For Teens Ages 12 Through 14*

# Intermediate Bible Class

## SPRING QUARTER

### The Love of God

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## LOOKING AHEAD

The common theme in all the lessons of this quarter is God's love. In the first lesson, the Apostle John boldly declared that God is the source of love.

Since John was the apostle of love, a number of the lessons are based on his writings. You will study Jesus' teachings on the True Vine and the branches, and then you will learn about Jesus' nighttime conversation with Nicodemus. Jesus shocked this man by saying that he had to be born again. Jesus was talking about a spiritual birth, but Nicodemus did not understand that.

Two of the lessons picture Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He loves and cares for His sheep.

The extent of God's love is highlighted in four lessons based on the book of Jonah. God sent Jonah to Nineveh to warn the wicked people living in that city that judgment was coming. Instead of obeying God, Jonah ran from God's call and ended up in the belly of a great fish. Of course, that was not the end of the story.

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## Scripture Lesson Text

**1 JOHN 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

**8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.**

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

**10 Herein is love, not that we 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 ought also to love one another.

**12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

**14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**

15 Whosoever shall confess that Je'sus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

**16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

**18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.**

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

### NOTES

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edness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only.  
"They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts  
17:11).

# The Source of All Love

## Lesson: I John 4:7-19

Read: I John 4:7-19

TIME: about A.D. 90-95

PLACE: probably from Ephesus

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (I John 4:11).

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## LESSON STUDY

You are surrounded by love. Every day you express your loving feelings for the other people in your life, and, in turn, those people express their love for you.

Sadly, many people who say "I love you" do not really mean it. It is simply a casual remark, like "Have a nice day." In this lesson, the focus is on real love—the love that comes from God.

In his letters, the Apostle John urged believers to "love one another" (I John 4:7). When John talked about love, he meant much more than a warm, fuzzy emotion or a feeling of affection for someone you like.

Love certainly is something you feel, but it is more than that. Basically and essentially, love is something you do. It may start with a feeling, but if love is real, it leads to acts of love.

### **LOVE COMES FROM GOD— I John 4:7-8**

You do not love other people because you are a kind and loving person. The ugly truth is that by nature you are sinful and selfish. However, if you have accepted Christ into your life, He has transformed you. Your

heart has been filled with the love of God. With God's love in your heart, you are able to do what you would never be able to do on your own. You are able to love other people because you have access to the source of real and genuine love. Love comes from God, who is the source of love. Without God there would be no love.

Of course, most of what the world calls "love" is not love at all. It is selfish and self-centered emotion focused more on the person expressing his or her feelings of love than on the other person in the relationship.

God calls you to a higher level of love. He calls you to a level of love that is unselfish. Real love puts others first and thinks first of the other person. This level of love is possible only through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

John did not say, "God is loving." He said, "God is love" (I John 4:8). Love does not describe God's actions; it describes His character. Love is at the center of who God is.

A person you may consider "loving" can do some truly unloving things. However, since God is love, He will always be true to who He is. Everything He does flows from His nature of love.