

Senior High Bible Class

March, April, May 2017

• SPRING QUARTER

For Teens Ages 15 Through 17



Senior High Bible Class

SPRING QUARTER

The Love of God

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LOOKING AHEAD

This quarter focuses on God's love, beginning with how He loves us. All love comes from God; we love Him because He loved us first. His love is an overflowing gift, moving us from death to life. Without this love we can do nothing, yet He loves the world through us. His love is merciful, offering the gift of God's Spirit to sinners.

The second unit introduces us to the work of God's love, starting with how He shepherds His people. God's love brings salvation through Jesus—received by faith as the Spirit brings us to life. His love triumphed over death on Easter, and we are reborn in the hope of His resurrection. We are reconciled to God through Jesus' loving sacrifice. He is our Good Shepherd, the only door to protection and provision.

The third unit shows the extent of God's love, beginning with His loving discipline as shown to Jonah. His love protects us, even in discipline. He even extends love to those who do not love Him, as He did for the lost people of Nineveh. His limitless love embraces the whole world, and we rest in that love.

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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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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

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

ANALYZING

In this quarter's lessons, we will learn about the amazing love of God. We will learn first about the nature of true love—the love that comes from God. In contrast to the way the world exalts love as a god, we will see in this lesson that God is love! He is the true source of all love; love emanates from Him first and foremost. Love focuses on the good of others, with the benefits we receive from it coming secondarily.

1. Defining love (I John 4:7-12). Our identity comes from the fact that God loves us; we are His "beloved" ones. John used this moniker frequently to underscore his readers' importance as God's people. God's love is bestowed on us before any works we might do or are called to do, just as God called Jesus His beloved Son prior to the beginning of His ministry (cf. Luke 3:22).

Building on our identity as God's beloved, John instructs us then to love one another. All real love is of God, so one of the best ways we can learn to be more like Him is by loving

others. Loving others also gives us assurance that we belong to God. If we are enabled to genuinely love God and others, we can know that we are God's children.

On the other hand, this assurance is also a serious check for us. If we find ourselves consistently unable to love others or to put God's will above our own, that may be an indication that we are not really born again by God's Spirit. It is sobering to know that when we do not walk in love, we look nothing like Jesus. In fact, He Himself *is* love!

The fact that love is at the core of God's identity means that His love is not conditioned on anything we might do. It is a free gift, one that is constantly being renewed. God's love is also an identity we can come to walk in ourselves as we follow Him. The prime example of this gift of love is Jesus. God sent His only Son to bring us life! Jesus came not just to be the source of all our love but to be the fount of our very life.

Nothing we could try to do for God would matter if our sin were still held against us. Sin brings down God's wrath, but God's full love is