



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Love Made Visible

Receive the Love

Read/Reflect

1. Read 1 John 4:7–19 - Before love becomes our mission, it must become our identity.
2. When you hear the phrase “God is love,” what comes to mind first?
3. According to 1 John 4:9–10, how has God shown his love most clearly?

Explore

4. What is the difference between knowing about God’s love and experiencing God’s love personally?
5. John says perfect love drives out fear. What kinds of fear can keep people from receiving God’s love?
6. Where do you find yourself trying to earn what God has already given?
7. How might receiving God’s love more deeply change the way you relate to others?
8. What is one practice that could help you remain in God’s love this week?

Pray

- Pray that every day you gain a deeper awareness of God’s love for you.
- Pray for each person to receive God’s love with honesty, humility, and freedom from shame or fear.

Leading a discussion with this guide:

Purpose: This guide is designed to help small group leaders create a welcoming, honest, and spiritually formative conversation, helping people encounter God's love and respond together.

Suggested Group Flow

1. **Welcome and connection:** Begin with informal conversation and a simple check-in question. Help people settle before moving into deeper discussion. [10 minutes]
2. **Opening prayer:** Invite the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation, soften hearts, and help the group listen well to God and one another. [5 minutes]
3. **Read & Reflect:** Read the Bible text aloud. If possible, have two different people read it so the group can hear it more than once. Discuss the initial questions in this section. [15 minutes]
4. **Explore:** Choose the questions that best fit your group. Do not feel pressure to use every question. [35 minutes]
5. **Prayer:** Close by praying around the week's prayer focus, leaving space for personal needs and specific next steps. [10 minutes]

Facilitation Tips

- **Lead with warmth, not pressure.** Your tone matters. People are more likely to share honestly when they do not feel judged or rushed.
- **Ask follow-up questions.** Simple prompts like "Can you say more about that?" or "What made that stand out to you?" can deepen the conversation.
- **Make room for quieter voices.** Gently invite participation without putting people on the spot. You might say, "I'd love to hear from someone who hasn't shared yet."
- **Keep the conversation centred on Scripture.** Personal stories are valuable but regularly bring the group back to the passage and the big idea.
- **Protect the group from fixing mode.** When someone shares vulnerably, encourage listening, empathy, and prayer before advice.
- **End with action.** Each week should move toward a concrete response, even if it is small.

Guidelines for Group Safety and Care

- **Confidentiality matters.** Remind the group that personal stories shared in the group should not be repeated outside the group without permission.
- **Do not force vulnerability.** Invite honesty, but allow people to share at their own pace.
- **Respond to pain with care.** If someone shares something heavy, thank them, pause, and pray. Follow up privately if needed.
- **Know when to seek additional support.** If someone reveals a serious pastoral, mental health, safety, or crisis concern, do not carry it alone. Encourage them to connect with appropriate church leadership or professional support.
- **Keep Christ central.** The goal is not merely better discussion, but deeper formation in the love and way of Jesus.