

WEEK 1: JOHN, LOVE

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. (1 John 3:16)

1 John 3:16-20

When we invite Christ into our hearts and become Christians, the **Holy Spirit** begins to produce spiritual fruits inside of us: Fruit of the Spirit. The Fruit of the Spirit are the seeds that grow inside of us to show others what God's love looks like.

The greatest of these fruits is love because God **showed** His great love for us by sending His son to die on the cross for our sins. We have the **capability** to love radically and sacrificially because Christ first loved us, but it takes work. It takes more than just a feeling or a phrase, but action.

John the Apostle wrote about Christ's model of love for us in 1 John. John was one of the original **disciples** of Jesus, as well as one of His close friends. John spent a lot of **time** with Jesus during His time on earth where he observed the love and care Jesus had for others and, because of this, John dedicated his life to **sharing** the love of Jesus with the world. Because John had experienced the love of Jesus **firsthand**, he was able to go forward and show that same love to others.

Love is more than just saying "I love you" to someone you care about. It is **showing** them you love them. Jesus not only shared His love for others verbally, but He demonstrated it. Because we are made in the image of God, we are capable of expressing our love in this same way. Christ demonstrated His love for us through an **incredible** sacrifice and we are called to make sacrifices in love for our brothers and sisters.

Questions to think about:

1. Who has shown this type of love to you in your life? How?
 2. What is one thing you can do for someone today to show them you love them?
 3. Who is someone in your life that is hard to love?
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