

SMALL GROUPS

Session 9B - 1 John 4:7–12

“The Overwhelming Love of God” - Pastor Jon Lee

Group Discussion Questions:

1. “Whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” The word *abide* means to stay, continue, dwell, remain, or be present. It is like living in a house. What types of things entice us to leave the house of God’s love?
2. A simple equation is found in 1 John 4:16. God = Love. With that in mind, interchange those words in the following sentences and discuss any insights they bring.
 - “There is no fear in **love**; but **perfect love** casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18 NKJV)
 - “**God** is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1 NIV)
 - “**Love** is patient, **love** is kind. **It** does not envy, **it** does not boast, **it** is not proud. **It** does not dishonor others, **it** is not self-seeking, **it** is not easily angered, **it** keeps no record of wrongs. **Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **It** always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **Love** never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:4–8 NIV)
 - “**God** shows no partiality.” (Romans 2:11 ESV)
 - “Let all that you do be done in **love**.” (1 Corinthians 16:14 ESV)
 - “Behold, **God** is mighty, and does not despise any; **he** is mighty in strength of understanding.” (Job 36:5 ESV)
 - “Hate stirs up trouble, but **love** forgives all offenses.” (Proverbs 10:12 GNT)
 - “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of **God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23 NLT)
3. If you were asked, “How do you know that your spouse loves you?” you would respond by giving evidence. You would list some of the things they have done for you, said to you, given to you, and sacrificed for you. Give evidence from your life and experience that answers the question, “How do you know God loves you?”
4. Reading through 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 again, which of the following aspects of love is hardest for you to exhibit? Which is easiest?
 - Love is patient.
 - Love is kind.
 - Love does not envy.
 - Love does not boast.
 - Love is not proud.
 - Love does not dishonor others.
 - Love is not self-seeking.
 - Love is not easily angered.
 - Love keeps no record of wrongs.
 - Love does not delight in evil.
 - Love rejoices with the truth.
 - Love always protects.
 - Love always trusts.
 - Love always hopes.
 - Love always perseveres.
 - Love never fails.