



# theridgechurch

## ***LIFEgroup Discussion Questions***

***December 17, 2017***

***The Father Heart of God: Learning How to Love Text: 1 John 4.20-5.4***

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1. Read 1 John 5:1. If a close friend really loves you, wouldn't you expect them to love your child even if they did not know them very well? How then are we to respond to God's children?
2. Review 1 John 4:19-20. Join that by reading the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:36-40. We are commanded to love. How do you command love?
3. 1 John 5:2 helps us see that love is not just an emotion but a choice and a commitment. Can you think of a time when you chose to love someone even when you didn't feel like it? Or, even if they didn't deserve it?
4. Go back and review 1 John 3:18. Love is a conduct – something you do. Discuss this thought: "Loving God and others is a spiritual discipline like prayer or tithing or Bible study. If the only time I pray is when I feel like it, the devil will make sure I never feel like it. Actually I need to pray when I don't feel like it. That's when I need it the most."
5. According to 1 John 5:3 the commandments of God are not burdensome. How can this be? What are some examples of this?
6. Read the Great Commandment in Mark 12:28-34. Pastor Jerry asked this question last week: Do you struggle with having assurance of salvation? Why or why not?

**PRAY:** Pray for the group to show the love of God in their family during the holidays.

**DO:** Discuss how each of you will show love to someone. Hold each other accountable for this action. Pray for the Advent Offering and make a decision to lovingly give to all the mission work we do together at The Ridge.