

## **Warming Up**

1. What is one of the most cherished gifts you have ever received (at Christmas time or other time) from someone else? Share with the group why that gift was so important to you.

## **Knowing the Gospel...**

2. What does John mean in verse 8 when he says “God is love.”? What does he not mean? How does John describe God’s love in verses 9 and 10? What are some of the characteristics and intended results of his love?

3. Discuss what John means when he says that Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (4:10). Check out these other passages Rom. 3:25, 1:18, 1 Jn. 2:1-2, Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 2:24. Discuss why God’s wrath is such an important concept to grasp when it comes to understanding propitiation (Rom. 1:18)

4. Read 1 Jn. 4:2 and 4:15. What 2 things is John requiring a person to believe about Jesus in order to be a christian? How are these truths reinforced in the following passages? Col. 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-3, John 1:1-2, John 1:14, Hebrews 2:17, Hebrews 4:14-16. How are these 2 truths significant in the discussion of how Jesus could be our propitiation?

## **Live the Gospel....**

5. Read these verses and discuss the following questions: 1 John 4:16, 2:3-6, 5:13:

- Is it possible for a person to have assurance of their salvation?
- If so, what are some of the markers, or evidences of genuine conversion in the book of 1 John? See also John 14:20-21, 23, 24
- What is the Holy Spirit’s role in a person’s confidence in their salvation? (4:13)

6. Discuss the implications of the truths of Jesus’ full humanity and full deity. How does that make a difference in your life today?

7. What’s the connection between a person’s status and experience as a beloved child of

God and John's repeated commands to love one another (1 Jn. 3:11, 14, 11)? Who are the people God is calling you to love...How is God asking you to love them? What does loving those in your life look like?

## **Tell the Gospel....**

7. Evaluation question: Do the unbelievers in your life know that you are a Christian because of how you love people? Or at least...are they suspicious?:)

**Next Week:** Romans 8