

GOD IS LOVE 11.5.17

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

TALK ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF LOVE

(**agape**) is a love that impels one to sacrifice one's self for the benefit of the object loved... (it) speaks of a love which is awakened by a sense of value in the object loved, an apprehension of Your VALUE.

READ THIS TO YOUR JG:

Then give everyone one of the following statements and have them describe it to the group considering how God loves...

God's love is:
spontaneous in its **source**;
universal in **scope**;
long-suffering in **intensity**;
self-sacrificing in **character**,
aggressive in **action**;
and constant in **duration**.

CHRIST IS THE MANIFESTATION OF THAT LOVE

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God's example of **sacrificial love** should serve to **motivate** us to love in the same way!

What are some examples of people who you know love like Jesus?

Based on **I JOHN 4:9,10 & 14** why does John say that God "sent" Jesus to us?

WE ARE THE REPRESENTATION OF LOVE

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16** So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Love one another - This phrase occurs 3 times in this "love" section

END WITH THIS QUESTION:

Based on the following verses (I JOHN 4:17-18) What is the difference between **CONDEMNATION** and **CONVICTION**? What do you think when God disciplines you? Is there a difference between punishment and discipline?

17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.