

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

John

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. – 1 John 4:16-19 (NIV)

### Who Was John?

- John is connected to \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of New Testament literature (Johannine corpus).
- John was likely the \_\_\_\_\_ of the original disciples.
- During the reign of Emperor Domitian, John was exiled to the island of Patmos. (Revelation resource: Discipleship on the Edge by Darrel W. Johnson)
- Some early church fathers indicate that John spent the final years of his life in \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the Gospel of John, we find “\_\_\_\_\_”

### What Do We See About John’s Character or Story?

- John inherited and inhabited a \_\_\_\_\_.
- John was a true \_\_\_\_\_ . Mark 3:16-17; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 9:51-56
- John was part of the trio that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ . Matt. 5:21-43; Matt. 17:1-13; 26:36-46

### How Was John Shaped by Jesus?

- John was shaped by Jesus’ love \_\_\_\_\_ . John 15:9-12

### What Can We Learn from John’s Story?

Like John, Jesus’ love is designed to change us as \_\_\_\_\_.

Remaining near Jesus slowly reshapes our \_\_\_\_\_.

*Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.*

What relationships, expectations, or experiences have most shaped your identity?

Where are you most tempted to spiritually live from: “He loves me... He loves me not?”

What might it look like for you to remain near Jesus in your current season of life?

What would change if being loved by Jesus became the deepest truth you believed about yourself?

How has Jesus been shaping you over time? Who are the “older saints” whose faithfulness has shaped your life?

### Optional Response

As shared at the conclusion of the message, consider writing a letter or note this week. The request was specifically made for older members of our church family to write to younger generations within our church. These can be emailed to [info@sunridgechurch.org](mailto:info@sunridgechurch.org), mailed to the church office, or even personally handed to someone at church.

Of course, letters can also extend beyond the “older to younger.” Consider writing to:

- Someone walking through a difficult season,
- Someone who may need reminding that they are deeply loved by Jesus,
- Or someone whose faithfulness has encouraged or inspired you.

What might it look like to help someone remain near to Jesus through your words?



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### Who Was John?

- John is connected to FIVE pieces of New Testament literature (Johannine corpus).
- John was likely the YOUNGEST of the original disciples.
- During the reign of Emperor Domitian, John was exiled to the island of Patmos. (Revelation resource: Discipleship on the Edge by Darrel W. Johnson)
- Some early church fathers indicate that John spent the final years of his life in EPHESUS.
- In the Gospel of John, we find "THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED."

### What Do We See About John's Character or Story?

- John inherited and inhabited a SHARED IDENTITY.
- John was a true LITTLE BROTHER. Mark 3:16-17; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 9:51-56
- John was part of the trio that Jesus KEPT CLOSE. Matt. 5:21-43; Matt. 17:1-13; 26:36-46

### How Was John Shaped by Jesus?

- John was shaped by Jesus' love FOR HIM. John 15:9-12

### What Can We Learn from John's Story?

Like John, Jesus' love is designed to change us as WE AGE.

Remaining near Jesus slowly reshapes our IDENTITY.

*Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.*

What relationships, expectations, or experiences have most shaped your identity?

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