

Review:

Lesson 1: Life Begins w/Jesus

Lesson 2: In God's Image

Lesson 3: Abundant Life

Lesson 4: Finding Hope

All About Love

1 John 4:19-21

The kind of love for which we, as humans created in God's image, are pre-wired is a love _____ by _____ Himself, and only then reflected by and through us to one another.

Discussion 1. How do you know if the love you are reflecting to others was initiated by God or by you? What are some of the differences between God-initiated love and manmade love?

The clearest evidence of being a Christ follower is our extraordinary _____ . When we forsake that and choose hatred, we disqualify ourselves from the kind of love for which God designed us as humans.

Discussion 2. We live in a world that is constantly telling us there are people we should hate. How do you combat that as a Christ follower? How do you discipline yourself to show extraordinary love when the world says it is ridiculous to do so?

The kind of love for which we were created contemplates really seeing the essence of someone and having them really see the essence of you. It goes _____ the surface identities which dictate the world's versions of love.

Discussion 3. Why is it harder to hate someone after you have actually spent time and effort getting to know them? What forces within our culture create an urgency to hate people we have never met? Why does that happen?

Asking, which is more important, loving God or loving my brother/sister, is a nonsensical question. You simply _____ without doing the other.

Discussion 4. Think about all the reasons a Christian might give for hating a fellow believer. What kinds of things do we tell ourselves to make this seem OK? Is there anything we can say to God to justify it to Him?