

WHEN LOVE MOVES IN, FEAR MOVES OUT

1 JOHN 4

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God is love, and God's love is greater than our worst fears.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How often do you receive spam phone calls? How can you tell it is a scam?

How can you identify spiritual scammers? What is the litmus test for truth?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 4:1-6

We are in a spiritual war. What was the false teaching that John wrote against? How is this false teaching seen today?

Pastor Greg explained that 1 John 4:2 is the litmus test of truth: "To be a Christian, you must believe that Jesus was born of a virgin and was God among us. He was fully God and fully man, and He died on the cross for our sins. He bodily rose again three days later, and He will come again." Do you believe this? How does this statement of faith compare to popular spiritual scams?

God is bigger and greater than everyone and everything (v.4). How is God greater than Satan, sin, and your problems?

Max Lucado writes, "You may feel outnumbered, but you are never outpowered. God in you is greater than any challenge in front of you." Share a biblical example of someone who overcame overwhelming odds.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 4:7-12

If we really know God, we will love others. In our study of 1 John, we have learned how God is *light* (1:1-2:2), *love* (2:3-4:21), and *life* (5:1-21). Why are light and love inseparable? How does knowing God lead to loving others?

Pastor Greg asked, "It's easy to say we love the God we cannot see. But do we love our fellow Christians, who we can see?" What greater truth is revealed when Christians love each other (John 13:35)?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 JOHN 4:13-21

God's love is greater than our worst fears. Pastor Greg explained, "This is simply having the confidence that you are loved and forgiven by God." How does perfect love expel fear? Why is this exclusively found in Christ?

God will never stop loving you (Romans 8:38-39). As fears change with time, how can God's love be uniquely experienced in every stage of life? What promises of God are especially meaningful to you in this season?

Our love for God is a response to God's love for us (v.19). Why do you love God? How does knowing God's love for you impact your love for God?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. How does your life depict that you are in a spiritual war? What kind of mentality do you have? What kind of armor do you wear?

John used "know" over thirty times in his letter, including his purpose statement (1 John 5:13). How have you experienced assurance in doubt and truth in uncertainty? Does "know" characterize your life and faith?

How have you experienced the way that fear moves out when love moves in? How has perfect love cast out fear in your life?

PRAYER

Thank God for who He is and what He does—He is love, and His love drives out fear. Pray for strength in this spiritual war. Look to God's love and respond by loving Him.