

'Vicariously Victorious'

Living THROUGH Jesus

Key Scriptures:

1 John 4:9

Luke 19:1-10

Matthew 16:24-27

'LEARNING TO BE MORE FULLY LOVED AND TO LOVE MORE FULLY'

1 John 4:17-21

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: 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 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God God lives in them and they in God. 16 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. 17 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. 18 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.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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Quick Recap:

Week ONE 'Birthmark' // The supernatural reality of love

We are all marked by things in life both positive and negative. These marks can shape the way we make decisions and live life. Our focus for this week was another mark - the mark of God's supernatural **agape** love on us. Agape is a 'birthmark' because our capacity and ability to agape only comes when we are born again as new creations IN Christ. What was impossible is now made possible. Agape can feel impossible and we are not supposed to carry a heavy weight of impossibility but nor are we supposed to diminish the call on our lives to agape just because it feels impossible.

Week TWO 'Vicariously Victorious' // Learning to let go

God is love. Agape defines him and it therefore comes out of Him. What defines us on the inside will almost always make its way out of us in some way which is partly what makes wholeness so important. God showed us His love by sending Jesus among us so that we could live THROUGH Him. In order to live through Jesus, we need to be able to let go of our lives being our own. In losing our lives for the sake of Jesus, we actually find true and abundant life.

Questions

1. As you think about the last couple of weeks, are there any things that are journeying with you and do you sense God doing anything particular right now?
2. Read over our key passage in 1 John 4:7-21 together. As you read it again, what is sticking out to you?

3. God showed His love to us in sending Jesus. Going back to that word 'agape' from last week, how do you find receiving this kind of love from God?
4. How do you think you could bring the love that is in you more out into the open?
5. Read Matthew 16:24-27 together. How does the idea of letting go of your life challenge you?
6. How could you invite God to help you with this over the next week?