

February 12-13, 2022 Connect Lesson- Ty and Debbie Barker
“True Love”

Message Recap

- I. The world presents many different definitions of love. And while some of those definitions contain small bits of truth, true love, *God-love* can only be found in Jesus. 1 John 4 tells us that God is love, and, if we are to truly be His children, we must walk in the love that He gave. In fact, it says that if we don't love our brothers and sisters we do not know God. God loved us first, so we are called to love others.

- II. Romans 12:16-18 gives us great guidance on what living in love looks like: “Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[a] Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” As we walk through each day, let's ask ourselves these questions: “Am I living in harmony with others? Is my heart humble? Am I living in peace?” Our love is shown each day in the interactions we have with those around us, and that love begins with a humble heart.

- III. Understanding the Father's love is what makes our faith grow. In Mark 4, Jesus and the disciples are in a boat when a storm comes in and threatens to sink the boat. In verse 38, Jesus, sleeping below, is awakened by the frantic disciples. Instead of asking Jesus, the miracle-working Son of God to calm the storm, they actually question His love for them, “Teacher, don't you care if we drown?”. The revelation of God's love for us produces the faith to believe He is good and He is able to do anything we need.

Read and Discuss

Read 1 John 4:7-21

1. Have you encountered situations where it seemed hard to love a brother or sister in Christ?
2. What steps did you take to walk in love despite the difficulty?

Read Romans 12:16-18

1. What part does humility play in loving others?
2. How can you live in peace with those around you, even when you disagree?

Read Mark 4:35-41

1. Have you ever questioned God's love for you?
2. What are some ways we can gain a revelation of His great love for us?

Reading

1 John 4:7-21

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.

Romans 12:16-18

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.[c] Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"