



Date: December 10, 2017
Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21
Series: Christmas Gifts



In Christ, we are recipients of great gifts, not just at Christmas but all the time. In Christ, we have received joy, hope, peace, and love, to name but a few great gifts. But these gifts are not just given to

be received passively but to be used practically. *In Christ, we can love others even when it is hard because of Christ's love in us.*

Passages Overview:

Author and Date: The Apostle John wrote this letter sometime during 80-90 A.D.

First readers and their location: 1 John was probably addressed to believers in Asia Minor (Probably around Ephesus). The nature of the content points to a Christian audience.

Why was it written?: John knew his audience well using a term of endearment, "Little Children" when referring to them. John had become aware of dangerous, false teaching that had entered the church. Something called Gnosticism had arisen in the church (The Spirit is Pure, the flesh is sinful). The idea was that Jesus could not have been human because the Flesh (Body) is sinful instead of sinful deeds or natures. This was allowing people in the church to disregard their bodies and how they used them and treated others because their spirits were pure. John was confronting this ideology and pointing people back to the real Jesus.

Look Around

What is love? Put down or discuss your thoughts on that question.



Into the Bible

Read: 1 John 4:7-21

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points...) Ask the question, "What does it say?" (For more help on effective Bible Study see the resources at the back)

Explore and discuss how God's love is presented in this passage.

How does this passage present the human expression of love?

1 John 4:18 contrasts love with fear. How does Romans 8:14-17 bring more clarity to this verse?



Into my life

Ask the question, "What does this look like in my life?"

In what ways have you experienced God's love in your life?

How have you experienced and shown love in our church family at Westwood?

What does it mean to you to love our brother and sister in Christ? How are you challenged by this call to love in 1 John? (Pray for each other in this)

Where is fear taking the place of love in your life? What steps do you think God is calling you to take to address it?

Other Application Questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week? (Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on?



Into the World

Ask, “what does this look like in my day to day life?”

In what ways could our church grow in showing love inside our church family? What do you think is going well?

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...

...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings to celebrate and learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that go deeper in relationships with each other and God



GO

Serving in the church and community to present Jesus to the world