

## 1 John Overview:

**Author and Date:** John the Apostle, one of the original 12 disciples and known as the “Apostle of Love.”

Written between 60-90 A.D.

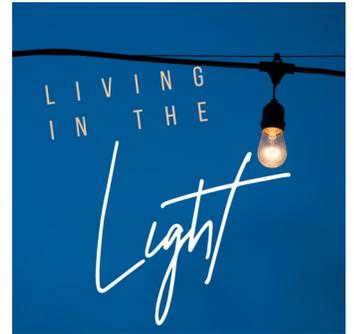
**First readers and their location:** Christians in Ephesus and Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).

**Ephesus the city:** Ephesus had a population of around 300,00, was a leading trade centre in the Roman Empire, and was the centre of worship for the pagan goddess Diana.

**Why was it written?:** 1 John was written primarily to combat false teaching that had shown up in the church. False teachers were denying that Jesus had a real physical body and was fully human. They were also denying that Jesus was the Messiah. These teachings lead to believers minimizing the seriousness of sin. John wrote to correct these lies.

### Open-up

Loving well is one of the foundational characteristics of a follower of Jesus? What do you think loving well looks like? Where have you seen loving well expressed in your relationships?

 **Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”**

### Read: 1 John 4:7-21

According to John, where does our love begin? From the passage, what are some of the qualities of that love?

How does God show his love to us? How do we know that his love is in us?

Build an understanding of what John means in verse 17 and 18. (See 1 John 2:28; 3:19-21; 2 Peter 3:3-13; Psalm 97:8-12; Jeremiah 2:35)

What is clear about us if we do not love fellow believers?



### **Into my life**—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

Much of what John was talking about resulted from false teachers hurting the church. At what point do we decide not to work along side those who say they are Christians but deny Christ?

No human loves perfectly (Except Jesus who is fully God and fully human). How do we apply verse 7 and 8 in our lives? What should happen when we don't love well?

According to Martin Buber, a Jewish theologian, we treat people as an “It” when we use them as a means to an end or as objects. We treat people as a “Thou” when we recognize each person as a separate human being made in God's image and treat them with dignity and respect. How have you treated people as an “It” instead of a “Thou?”

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 world?”

How could this passage be applied in your life, in the life of your group, in our church? Be specific and pray for each other in this.

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!