



SPIRITUAL GROWTH AT THE PEAK

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

Lesson #4: “Love Brings Light to Darkness”

1 John 2:7-14

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What’s the wisest information you dad or maybe and step-dad or father-in-law ever gave you?

The Bottom Line: Love cures spiritual blindness.

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Read 1 John 2:12-14

1. John is writing them as a loving father would write to the sons or daughters they deeply love. Who are the three groups John is addressing? ***Dear Children*** like a heading and under that put the 2 groups.

🌐 What does John teach us about a great pastor or teacher?

2. What does John say to each particular group about the reason why he is writing?
(Continue on the board. It should look like this as you write it out)

Dear Children

(NOTE: The “Dear Children” was an expression of tenderness & refers to all those he’s writing to. Forgiveness from God shows they are the saved he is shepherding.)

Fathers

Young men



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- ⑥ The Christian community looks to the fathers within the church to be godly leaders. They should be examples of how to live a holy life since they know the grace of God. How can our church take notice and apply this more effectively today?

- 3. Secondly, John addresses the young men in the church. They have overcome the evil one because they are spiritually strong. How did these youth in the church become so spiritually strong and dynamic in their faith?

- ⑥ How do we address youth today? How do we keep the fathers involved?

Read 1 John 2:7-11

John makes a smooth transition in verses 1-6 where he spoke of knowing and obeying God's commandments to the topic of love. He starts verse 7 with “Dear friends” which is also translated, “beloved.” John is a deeply caring apostle and Elder and he uses this word of compassion and deep caring quite often.

- 4. According to John, he's not writing a new command, but an old one they already know, but yet he is writing a new one. How can this make any sense?

The Old Testament teaching on love that John is about to present was already part of their knowledge. Have someone read. Leviticus 19:18. “Love your neighbor as yourself.” That was an old and well-know command from God. What John is teaching them is that this new command is born of the old command. It used to be a form of legalistic obedience to Law. Now it is new in the fact that it comes from the light of the God's Truth that has transformed our hearts to want to love. So, it is old and yet it is new. The old continues hand in hand with the new.



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5. What is the true light that is now shining?

God’s truth was always a light for our path and a lamp for our feet (Read Ps. 119:105) and now that light has come in the flesh. Jesus is referred to as the light of the world (Read John 1:4-9). This makes John’s statement of the old not being new but the new being brought to their attention suddenly make perfect sense to us.

- 🕒 What are some of the ways Jesus has been and is a light to you?

6. Who is now in darkness?

- 🕒 How can I have a peace if someone refuses to resolve a feud with me?

7. Who is declared to be living in the light?

The Greek word for love was AGAPE, the unconditional love that God shows us. I am to love as God loves without restrictions. I choose to give love even if they don’t deserve it. Neither did I!

8. What does it mean that there is nothing in the person who loves his brother that will make him stumble?

9. Notice that God tells us hate will blind us until we don’t know where we are going. This person is stumbling through life as if he were in complete darkness. How does that relate to our faith walk?



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- ❶ What are some of the ways that hate causes Christians to stumble around in darkness?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: **Have one** table look up Luke 10:25-37; one look up Matthew 5:43-44; and one look up Matthew 11:19. Have each group tell how their passage relates to John's teaching on the old and the new merging together in Christian faith.



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “I am the light of the world. Whoever walks in me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12).