



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: The Gift Exchange - I John 4:7-12

## GETTING STARTED

What do you think is a more powerful motivator; love, fear or hate? Why?

What is the best present you've received from a white elephant gift exchange?

What about the worst gift?

## QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

- What do you think John means when he says that love comes from God?
- What is the difference between saying that God is love or love is God? What are the consequences?
- What happens to our efforts to love each other if those efforts aren't connected to Jesus' love for us?
- How does God's love for us transform the way we see other people?

## EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [I John 4:7-12]

- What is the relationship between loving and knowing God? (vs. 7-8)
- What is an indication that we are children of God? (vs. 7, John 13:35)
- How did God show His love for us? (vs. 9)
- If loving God isn't real love, then what is it? (vs. 10)
- Why should Christians love one another? What is our motivation? (vs. 11)
- What is the fullest expression of God's love that we can experience? (vs. 12)

## APPLICATION

- Is there any situation in your life right now that is causing you to question or doubt the love of God?
- Do you find yourself more loving or more critical and judgemental of others right now? How are you going to encounter the love of God this week?
- Who is someone unlovely or unloveable that you can love this week?
- Take time to pray for one another.