

Community Group Leader Guide

June 21, 2026 | wk. 4 This We Know

Missed the sermon? Watch here: [YouTube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch)

Big Idea: Genuine fellowship with God is revealed by genuine love for God's people. We love because He first loved us.

Announcements

Be sure to check out our companion resource to help you understand the language, ideas, and historical background behind our study through 1 John. You can find it at www.clifec.com/1john

Icebreaker Question

Who were you in high school?! Cool kid? Band nerd? Invisible? Trouble maker? Sound off and let us know what crowd you 'belonged' to and how you ended up there! If you had a chance to do it all over... would you still belong to that crowd? Would you want to do things differently at all?.

Starting Questions

- Why do you think love for other believers is such an important evidence of genuine faith?
- What are some ways people can appear spiritually mature while still being harsh, critical, or unloving?
- When you think about the church, what comes to mind first: gratitude, frustration, affection, disappointment, belonging, skepticism, or something else?

Discussion Questions with Scripture

Read 1 John 2:7-11

- What does it look like to love other believers while still being honest about sin, hurt, or disagreement?
- Can you think of a time when another believer confronted you in a way that felt like it struck the right balance between grace and truth?

Read 1 John 3:16-18

- How does the cross define what love is?

- What is the difference between loving “in word or talk” and loving “in deed and in truth”?
- Where have you personally experienced the love of God through the practical care of another believer?

Read 1 John 4:7-21

- Why does knowing God’s love naturally produce love for others?
- Why is “We love because he first loved us” different from simply saying, “Try harder to be more loving”?

Action Steps from the Sermon

- Examine your heart toward the family of God. Ask honestly: “Am I marked more by love, patience, and care — or by criticism, distance, and contempt?”
- Practice tangible love this week. Serve, encourage, give, visit, listen, forgive, or show up for another believer in a specific way.
- Bring bitterness into the light. If resentment toward another believer has taken root, ask God to help you move toward forgiveness, humility, and wisdom.
- Receive God’s love again. Spend time this week reflecting on this truth: “We love because he first loved us.”

Prayer Requests Related to the Sermon

- Pray that our church would be known by sincere love for one another.
- Pray that God would expose bitterness, pride, contempt, and indifference in our hearts.
- Pray for people who have been wounded by others in the church to experience healing.
- Pray that our love would become practical, visible, and sacrificial.
- Pray that each person would more deeply know and believe the love God has for them.