



LAS VEGAS OUTREACH

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FOR **GO! REACH OUR CITY** EVENT
OCTOBER 28TH



LVREACH.ORG



Veterans Celebration **FREE Concert & Lunch**

Date: Saturday October 14th
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Location: Awaken Las Vegas
7175 W. Oquendo Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89113

Please RSVP using the QR code
or call 702-328-2639



REACHING THE CULTURE

GO!

LOVE: DEFINED

WEEK 3

1 JOHN 4:7-10

**“If you love anything in this world more than God,
You will crush that object under the weight of your expectations.”**

Tim Keller

I recently read an article in the Atlantic where the author said, “America appears to be the only country in the world where love is a national problem.” While that is journalistic hyperbole (America isn’t the only country battling with the issue of love), love has indeed become a national topic of debate and a proverbial football in today’s culture wars. We hear opposing arguments, such as love affirms and supports people to be whoever they want. Countered by, love is wanting for others what God wants for them. Terms like love is love and love wins are catchphrases used to identify philosophies and cultural views on love. The truth is we have made a mess of love. Humanity’s fall in the garden has marred our capacity to love and be loved. To know and experience true love, we must turn to God, the source of love.

God has made His love available to us through the greatest manifestation of love, the sending of His Son Jesus, for the forgiveness of our sins. Our loves are ordered and set right when we receive God’s love through His Son. Through a genuine experience of God’s love, we can love Him with all of our heart, soul, and mind, and we can love one another in a way that aligns with the true God and the true source of love.

(10 min) PRAY

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Read these verses together and pray over them. 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you’ve had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week’s lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Pastor Derek contended that to understand and experience love, we must return to the source of love. How is God the source of love? Discuss love in the context of the Trinity. How does love shared within the Trinity relate to us? Support your views with Scripture
2. Pastor Derek argued that there is a first-order love and second-order loves. To understand and live out second-order loves, we must start with God and His love. Based on the study and your understanding of Scripture, why is this important? How does this help us help others who are confused about love? Describe qualities of love as expressed in the Bible. Include Scripture verses. Does this describe how you love?
3. God’s love is meant to be experienced. How do we experience God’s love? How do we help others experience God’s love, and how can we communicate effectively with people confused about love? Discuss how much you expect the non-Christian who hasn’t experienced God’s love to understand love.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Matthew 22:37-38** *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: *Pray for the next 15-20 minutes as a Life Group. The world needs to see a community of Christ followers filled with the supernatural love of God. A community of people so powerfully influenced by God’s love that the unbelieving world is compelled to listen to the truth they share about God. Humbly ask God to do that work in your life and your Life Group. Confess anything that hinders you from being a pipeline of God’s true love to others.*

(5 min) LIVE IT

Based on the study, be faithful to obey the words of Christ this week. As you have rooted your life in God’s love, have had His love shed abroad in your heart by His Spirit, and have chosen to love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind, love others this week with His love. Choose God’s love in every context and every situation.