

## ICEBREAKER

- When is it okay to start listening to Christmas music?
- What's a Christmas song that you love? What's a Christmas song you'd love to never hear again?

## EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Read through the Scripture together from the sermon this week:

### 1 John 4:9-17

*9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. 14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.*

- What stands out to you from this passage?
- How would you summarize the “real love” that is described in v10?
- How does this Scriptural explanation of “real love” challenge or differ from cultural or popular interpretations of love?

## IDEA 1- GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

As Rob recounted the grand narrative of Scripture, he reminded us that “God loved us, so he took action.”

- **When you think about the stories you've read in the Bible, what are some of the ways that you remember God's love taking action?**
- **Take a moment to think about your own story. Where are you noticing God's active love in your life at the moment?**

## IDEA 2 - PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

Rob shared as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. And it's this perfect love that casts out fear, building in us a confident anticipation of his return.

- **What is it about God's love growing in us that has the power to cast out our fear?**
- **How have you experienced the perfect love of God cast out fear in your life?**
- **What fears are still present in your life? What could it look like to invite God's perfect love into those areas of fear?**
- **How can shifting our focus from ourselves to others transform our experience of fear?**

## PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Rob shared that 1 John 4 is both a reminder and an invitation. It's a reminder that we are loved and seen and known by the God of love. And it's an invitation to image and make known the love of God to all creation.

- **How can you remind yourself of the love of God this week?**
- **And how is God inviting you to make this love known to others**
- **How can your life group support each other in living out this call to love?**