

SPEAKNOW

A STUDY THROUGH THE EPISTLE OF JOHN

Speak Now - Week 4

“This Is Love”

1 John 4:7-21

We don't have to wonder what God is like, we just have to look at how God has loved

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A STUDY THROUGH THE EPISTLE OF JOHN

SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

A New Kind of Christianity
By Brian McClaren

Red Letter Revolution
Shane Claiborne and Tony Campolo

The Bad Habits of Jesus: Showing Us The Way to Live Right in a World Gone Wrong
Leonard Sweet

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:

The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.

RECAP: WHY THIS SERIES?

IN A WORLD WHERE IT’S UNCERTAIN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN—WE NEED TO BE SPEAKING UP.

IMAGES OF GOD—HOW DO YOU PICTURE THE ALMIGHTY?

WHAT KIND OF GOD DO WE LONG FOR?

THE HARDEST QUESTION TO ANSWER— “WHAT KIND OF A GOD...?”

TODAY—WE DON’T HAVE TO WONDER WHAT GOD IS LIKE, WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK AT HOW GOD HAS LOVED.

1 JOHN 4:7-21

- AGAPETOI & AGAPE — THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD’S “FIRST” LOVE
- HUMAN LOVE FLOWS OUT OF GOD’S LOVE
- WE LEARN ABOUT GOD’S “ABIDING” LOVE WHEN WE LOOK TO JESUS “PERFECTED”
- THROUGH JESUS WE HAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD
- LOVE IS NOT JUST INNER ASSURANCE—IT IS EXPRESSED IN ACTS OF LOVE
- LIVING IN THIS LOVE TRANSFORMS US—AND MAKE US TRANSFORMATIONAL
- WHEN WE ABANDON SELF INTEREST, WE CUT THE GROUND FROM UNDER FEAR
- **THE ELDER SPEAKS WITH THE AUTHORITY OF PEOPLE WHO STOOD AT THE CROSS, SAW JESUS’ BODY PREPARED FOR BURIAL AND WERE TRANSFORMED BY A LOVE THAT CANNOT DIE.**

WE DON’T HAVE TO WONDER WHAT GOD IS LIKE, WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK AT HOW GOD HAS LOVED.

SO HOW CAN WE KNOW THIS? HOW DO WE MAKE THIS REAL TO US?

1. CLAIM GOD’S LOVING IMAGE—NEUROSCIENCE/MIRROR; RICHARD ROHR
2. RECALL THE MOMENTS WHEN WE SHOW AGAPE - WHO DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?
3. LIVE OUT OUR LOVING MISSION—LOVE GOD, LOVE EVERYBODY (THEY ARE BONDED)
4. EMBRACE LOVE, ABANDON HATE—YOU CAN’T LOVE & HATE AT THE SAME TIME

“WHAT MATTERS MOST IS NOT IF OUR LOVE MAKES OTHER PEOPLE CHANGE, BUT THAT IN LOVING, WE CHANGE.” - ANN VOSKAMP

WE DON’T HAVE TO WONDER WHAT GOD IS LIKE, WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK AT HOW GOD HAS LOVED.