

5. God calls us to a life of love expressed, in part, through generosity. What are the benefits of generosity according the follow passages.

Proverbs 22: 9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

1 Timothy 6: 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Matthew 6: 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Corinthians 9: 13 As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. (NLT)

6. Reflect on the level of priority you've given to loving people actively in your life recently.

### Missional Application

God calls us to open our eyes to see who is in need and what we can give as a demonstration of Christ's love.

### Christ Connection

In teaching the church about the nature of true love, the apostle John reminded Christians that love is not merely a matter of feelings or words but of action. Love was demonstrated and defined most clearly by Jesus' action of laying down his life for his people.

## The God Who Directs His People (Part 4)

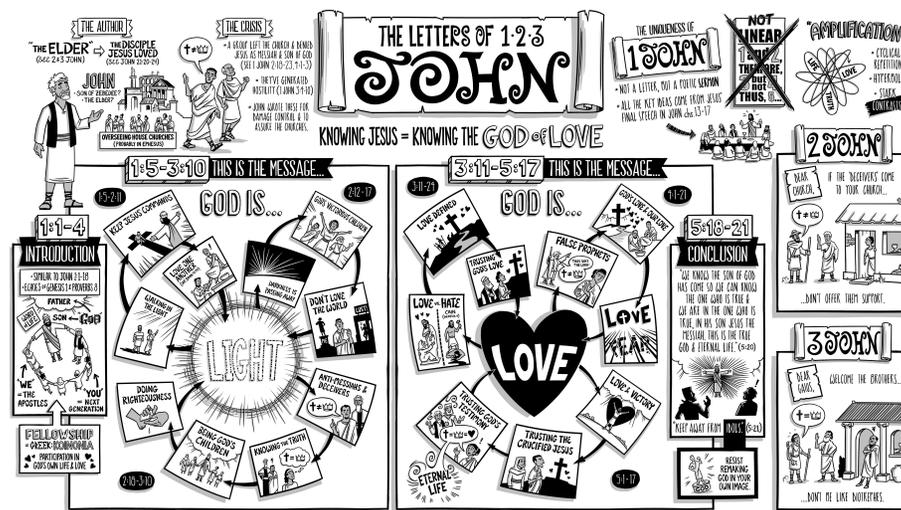
### "3 Remarkable Traits of Love that Reveal Healthy Faith"

1 John 3:11-18; 4:7-12,16b-21

"God is \_\_\_\_\_."

"This is \_\_\_\_\_."

"This is how we know what \_\_\_\_\_ is."



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### 3 Remarkable Traits of Love that Reveal Healthy Faith

1. O \_\_\_\_\_ Love

1 John 4:7,12,16

"Love is the overflow of joy in God that gladly meets the needs of others." (John Piper)

- God's love overflows from us through spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ that comes when we put our faith in what God has done in Christ.

- God's love overflows from us as his \_\_\_\_\_ with us and in us grows as we walk with God and relate to him through prayer, reflecting on his Word, and worshiping him.
- God's love overflows as we grow in greater \_\_\_\_\_ of him through the study of God's Word, engaging our minds and hearts in our relationship with him.

2. **C\_\_\_\_\_ Love**

1 John 3:16; 4:8-10

"It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital 'H' than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, exasperating, depraved, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular." (C.S. Lewis)

3. **G\_\_\_\_\_ Love**

1 John 3:16-18

Generosity is inevitably reflected in two places in our lives: in our checkbook ledger and our \_\_\_\_\_.

**Family Discussion Questions**

The following questions are based on Matthew 21:1-17.

1. Why did Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of David?
3. What does it look like in our lives when we follow Jesus as our King?

**Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions**

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Think of someone you know that you consider to be a very loving person. How do they show their love?
3. Read 1 John 3:11-18 and 4:7-12,16b-21. How does John make the point that our love should be a reflection of God's love, find its source in God, and is an overflow of God's love through us toward others.
4. If our love should be a reflection of God's love, find its source in God, and be an overflow of God's love through us toward others, then what rhythms do you need in your life to grow in this love and to express this love.