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## LESSON 21

### 1 John 4

1. How were you led to practice sacrificial love last week? What truth or verse from **1 John 3:11-24** changed your perspective?
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart and mind before you read through **1 John 4**. Notice the many times John mentions "God lives in us, and we in Him". Comment on the overarching themes of love, God's Spirit and abiding. What motivates or excites you about the study in this season?
3. According to **v1-3**, we are to test the spirits. What is the goal of this test? How are we to determine whether a person's teaching is from the Spirit of God or the spirit of the antichrist?
4. What important word of encouragement does John have for all believers in **v4**? In light of the trials, doubts or disappointments that may be swirling within and around you, how are John's words a balm to your soul?

5. a) From **V5-6**, how do you recognize the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood in people? Note the repetition of the word "listen" in these verses and the emphasis on the hearers.
- b) Read **Ephesians 5:6-11**. How does this passage amplify the serious business of discerning the truth from falsehood? If you have encountered the spirit of falsehood, reflect on your process of discernment.
6. From **1 John 4:7-10** what is the Biblical definition of love and how does tying it to Jesus give you a deeper appreciation?
7. Read **V11-18**.
- a) List the evidence that God lives in us and we in Him.
- b) From **V12, 17, and 18**, describe how love is made complete. What are the results we experience when we acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God? *Note: in these verses the Greek word for "complete" and "perfect" are similar.*
- c) Spend some time prayerfully considering your fears. Be specific in naming them as you take them into the throne room and allow God's perfect love to drive them out.

8. What are we commanded to do in **V19-21** and how is this possible?

## 9. **LIVING AS STRANGERS: DO NOT HATE**

As followers of Jesus, we are loved by God and God has poured His love into our hearts. In light of such perfect love, how can we harbor hatred for those within the family of God? John boldly declares, "anyone who hates a brother or sister walks around in darkness" (**1 John 3:11**) and "whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar" (**1 John 4:20**).

Study the following passages and listen as the Holy Spirit speaks through them. Prayerfully ask God to change your heart and remove any seed of hate or hostility lingering toward a brother and sister.

- **Leviticus 19:17-18**
- **Romans 5:5-8**
- **Titus 3:2-8**
- **1 John 3:14-15**

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**