

August 6, 2017  
I John 3:11-18

## LOVING WHEN LOVING IS DIFFICULT

### I. Introduction:

Setting the Context of I John 3:11-18

### II. Lessons From I John 3:11-18

A. Our Message: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>11</sup>This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. <sup>12</sup>Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup>Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

B. Our Model: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

C. Our Mission: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

### **III. Conclusion and Application:**

This week meditate on I John 3:16 “<sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”

Think of someone you find hard to love. What has made it difficult for you to love?

Read Genesis 4:1-8. Why do you think John included the story of Cain and Abel as an illustration? Examine your heart. Do you hate anyone? What is the impact of hate on your life?

Why do you think that living a life of love is a good reaction to the world's hate?

Thank God for his example of love. Tell God about the struggles you have with hate. Ask Him for the power to live a life of love.

**POINTS TO PONDER**  
**Week of August 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Loving When Loving Is Difficult**

**Open It**

1. \*Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to love?
2. Who is someone (in history or alive today) whose life is an example of what it means to hate?

**Explore It**

3. What message had the readers of 1 John heard from the beginning? (3:11)
4. Why did Cain murder his brother? (3:12)
5. About what should believers not be surprised? (3:13)
6. How can a person know that he or she has passed from death to life? (3:14)
7. What is the result of hating one's brother? (3:15)
8. \*How do we know what love is? (3:16)
9. What question did the author ask his readers? (3:17)
- 10.\*How should Christians love? (3:18)
- 11.What is God greater than? (3:20)
- 12.What is the result of not being condemned by one's heart? (3:21-22)

13. What is God's command? (3:23)
14. \*What is the result of obeying God's command? (3:24)
15. How do believers know that God lives in them? (3:24)

### **Get It**

16. How does the world hate believers today?
17. When have you experienced the hatred of the world?
18. What does it mean to love one's brother?
19. \*When do you struggle with loving other Christians?
20. \*How do you demonstrate your love for fellow believers?
21. Why do we struggle with loving other Christians with our material possessions?
22. Why is it easier to love with words rather than actions?
23. In what way does love result in life, and hate result in death?

### **Apply It**

24. \*For what fellow Christian whom you have difficulty loving will you do something kind this week?
25. How can you use your material possessions to love another believer this week?
26. What specific step will you take this week to put your love for another Christian into action?