

October 22 - 28

Truth and Deception | Love One Another

Icebreaker: Are you more prone to outbursts of anger or smoldering anger? What kind of things most prompt you to anger? How do you get beyond your anger?

Read 1 John 3:11-15

- John cites the story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4. Summarize their relationship and what happened between them.
- Read Genesis 4:3-7. What does God mean when he warns Cain that 'sin is crouching at the door"? What does 'rulership' have to do with sin in our lives?
- The concept of abiding shows up here again, with two options for abiding. How would you explain what abiding in something means to someone unfamiliar with the concept?
- Which comes first? Abiding or loving/hating? When you abide in something evil, how might that affect your actions? When you abide in righteousness?
- Why does John tell us to not be surprised that the world hates us?
- What is the evidence that you've passed out of death and into life? What evidence have you seen in your own life?
- How should we respond to being hated by the world? What makes it difficult to respond well?

Read 1 John 3:16-24

- Looking at verses 16–18, list what we learn about true love.
- Why is a person laying down his or her life for another the ultimate demonstration of love?
- What might it look like for us to lay down our lives for another believer?
- What is demonstrated by someone who is able to meet another believer's physical needs, but chooses not to do so? (See also, James 2:15–16)
- (vv.19–20) Why does our heart need reassuring? How do our deeds reassure us? How does God reassure us?
- Why is the assurance that comes from God greater than the assurance that comes from our heart?
- How does the Spirit assure us? (see also Ephesians 1:13–14)
- When you are feeling condemned and need to be reassured, what do you need to tell yourself?

