

Self-Study & Care Group Guide

Introduction

In anticipation for life in eternity, the Apostle John urged those reading his letter to return to their first love. His passionate plea is for you as well! The love of Christ is what keeps you burning bright, like a lamp illuminating your world. This love is more than good sentiment, its life changing! Learn in today's message how to return to your first love.

Ice Breaker

Looking back on your experience of the Sunday Service and the notes from the teaching, was there something general or specific (a point, verse, or comment) that caught your attention, made you excited, challenged you, or raised a question?

Part 1

Read 1 John 3:1-3. Reflect on when you first submitted your life to Jesus. Who was involved, how did you discover Christ's love, and how did that love change your desires?

Part 2

Read Psalm 37:4. God's love shapes our desires when we delight in him. Based on your understanding of the Bible and your experiences, what does it mean to delight in the Lord?

Give yourself an honest checkup. Do your desires reflect that that you love God or that you love the world?

Why is delighting in the Lord sometimes difficult? If you're in a group, take time to encourage one another.

Part 3

Read Psalm 139:23-24 & Psalm 51:10-12. Reflect on your journey as a Christian. Do you have the same love that you did at first? How has that love changed?

Pondering these scriptures, how can you allow Jesus to assess your heart and how can you be honest with him about what needs to change? If you're in a group, be transparent and then pray for each other.

Application.

- ◇ Get alone with God. Nothing kindles love like time with Jesus.
- ◇ Do a soul-searching, dark-dusty-corner-sweeping inventory.
- ◇ What might be distracting you? Repent of worldly desires.
- ◇ Change your routine. Make a plan to put Jesus first.
- ◇ Eagerly expect to be flooded and filled with God's love.

Care Group Leaders

Use the questions in Parts 1-3 of the Care Group Guide to lead a discussion in your Care Group. Be sure to leave time at the end for prayer. Ask those in your group if they have prayer requests.