

Core Strength: Love as Jesus Loved

Life Steps | June 11 & 12, 2016

Day 1

1 John 3:1-2

Describe a healthy father's love for his children. How have you experienced this? How is God's love more assured than an earthly father's? Express thanks to God for the ways you've felt his love directly or through Jesus followers.

Day 2

1 John 3:3-10

How does hope in Him purify while sin defiles? Describe how you loved someone you've never met. How were you able to love and know that person despite not having met? How can God's seed be nurtured?

Day 3

1 John 3:11-15

Just like with Cain and Abel, why does the world hate you? Why does a person's righteous actions confound the soul of an unrighteous person? How have we passed from death to life? When considering eternal life, how does the act of hate lead to murder?

Day 4

1 John 3:16-24

Christ laid down his life for us; how can we lay down our lives for other believers? Is it only about material possessions? In what other ways can we give? What restrains you from sacrificial giving? How can verses 20-22 set our hearts at rest no matter our circumstances?

Day 5

1 John 4:1-3

Is testing the spirits the same as testing God? Why? What other words might be used instead of spirit in these verses? How do these verses exemplify the idea "don't believe everything you hear?" How is understanding this important for a follower of Jesus?

Day 6

1 John 4:4-12

Describe changes in the worldly idea of love throughout time and cultures. Describe the world's view of love versus God's definition of love. How is one definition backed by the spirit of truth and one by falsehood? As a child of God, do you have a greater capacity to love? Why?

Day 7

1 John 4:13-21

How do you recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit in your life? Why is being like Jesus in this world essential? Is there room for apathy in verse 21? In what ways might you excuse apathetic behavior; because while you aren't loving, at least you aren't hating?