

**DISCUSSION**

1. The word "love" is used in many ways in our culture. What are some ways love is shown as described in the Bible? What are some ways that it is not?
2. Similarly, what are some attitudes and actions opposed to love (Ex: bitterness, resentment, selfishness, racism, abuse, bigotry) that pop up in your heart?
3. Read vv. 8-9. If you continue in your sins, what does that choice communicate about your values, and who are you aligning yourself with? Where can you find the power to overcome sin? (vv. 6, 9)
4. What does John mean when he says, "he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God?" How does this resonate with you? Why should we be worried if we continue on in sin?
5. Theologians refer to a believer's continued path toward Christ-likeness as "progressive sanctification." How does this text support the idea of progressive sanctification? Should we become more sinless as we mature in our Christian faith? How long is too long to struggle in sin?
6. What does John mean when he says sin is lawlessness?
7. How do you become a child of God? How does being a child of God change the way we live? How does it change our relationship with God? With others?
8. What are some of the works of the devil that Jesus came to destroy?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Why does God expect those who believe in Him to love and obey Him? How does He empower us to do that?
2. How does God's work in believers relate to their works?
3. Why did Jesus come? (v. 8)
4. How does Jesus purify believers? How might someone's life change when this happens?

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Are there any sins on your heart? Confess to God (and others, if need be). Pray for strength to live righteously. Find someone, or a group of people, to support you in your desire to live righteously.
- Pray for someone who has confessed to know Jesus, but seems to be aligning with the devil. Pray that God would break through, and that they would be freed from destruction.