

# Love Like the Son

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November 8, 2020



**Open:** How have you been shown love by someone this week?

**Read & Discuss:** 1 John 3:16-18

1. John makes clear that we know love by Jesus' example. What do we learn about love from how Jesus "laid down his life for us" (v. 16)? How might the love Jesus demonstrated differ from other concepts of love we may encounter in the world?
2. What do you think John meant when he said "we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers"? (See also *John 15:12-13*) What are some examples of how we might do this? Can you think of a recent example when someone else laid down his or her life for you in some way?
3. How would you define what John calls the "world's goods" (v. 17)? What does it look like for us to close our hearts to someone in need? Why should we take this warning in the end of verse 17 so seriously?
4. John uses the descriptor "brother" twice in these verses. Why would there be special attention given to showing love to our "brother," or fellow Christian? Should we see our need to obey these instructions as only applicable to other believers? Why or why not? (See *Galatians 6:10*)
5. What do you think John means in verse 18 when he admonishes us to love "in deed and in truth"? How is it helpful to keep a careful eye on our deeds? What potential dangers exist in such a focus? Why would this be important to share with someone you are discipling?
6. What are some ways that the church today *is* and *is not* replicating the example of Jesus' love? What are some ways that you personally are seeking to live out the example of Jesus' love both to other believers and to those outside the church?

**Apply:** Set a specific goal to love another person sacrificially in some way this week.

**Pray:** Ask God to help us love as Jesus loved, joyfully and sacrificially laying down our lives for the good of others—loving not just in talk, but also in deeds.

**This Week:** To help you prepare to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 3 (pages 11-14) of *Christian Living for Starters*. Then memorize 1 John 3:16-17.

## 1 John 3:16-18

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (ESV)