



## Water, Blood and Spirit - A Study of 1 John Discussion Guide: Week 7 - 1 John 4:7-21

**Summary of this week's teaching:** Many Christians know 1 Corinthians 13 as "The Love Chapter" of the Bible, since Paul mentions *agapē* eight times in his beautiful description of love. However, 1 John 4 contains a whopping 30 mentions of *agapē* in its noun, verb, and adjective forms! In this week's text, John introduces us to the source of love, God, and encourages us to know His love for ourselves. John also adjures us to love one another.

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What are some things you love, and why do you love them?

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience Life. Please read the following passage of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) 1 John 7-21.

1. What do we learn about God in this passage?
2. What do we learn about love in this passage?
3. What possible misunderstandings can come from this passage?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. "God is love." How have you experienced God's love for yourself this week?
2. Please reread verse 16. Have you come to know and to believe the love that God has for you? How does this occur in one's life?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Why is it important to our faith that we understand God as the very source of love?
2. Why is it so detrimental to think that if God is love, love is God?
3. How does this passage reassure your faith? How does it challenge it?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree well represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Take another look at this week's passage - what action steps are we given?

**Something to leave you with:**

1. Reread verse 20 and ask the Spirit to show you if you have any hatred toward another dwelling in your heart. If so, consider confessing this aloud and asking your group to encourage you and hold you accountable in this matter.

