



## CELL GUIDE

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TOPIC	Celebrating Love	SPEAKER	DSP Low Kok Guan
THEME	Celebration Series	DATE	13 & 14 Sep 2025

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

We celebrate what is important to us, and one of those things is love - God's love. The Bible speaks extensively about love, particularly God's love, which is unconditional, sacrificial, and unchanging. The word "love" appears over 500 times in the Bible, highlighting its importance.

The Apostle John, in John 3:16, explains that eternal life comes about because of God's love for us. In the book of 1 John, he further teaches us how to walk with God (Ch 1-2) and live in His love (Ch 3-5). This love of God allows us to discern truth and counter false teachings. From 1 John 4:7-21, DSP Kok Guan's exhorts us to focus on growing in God's love by first receiving it, then reflecting it.

## RECEIVING THE LOVE OF GOD

### Know God (1 John 4:7-10)

It is not enough to know about God; we need to experience Him. God's essence is love. Everything He does flows from His love. His ultimate act of love was sending Jesus to take the wrath we deserved and to die for our sins (v9, Romans 5:8).

### Abide in God (1 John 4:11-15)

Since God loves us, we are called to love one another. When we do, God abides in us, making His love complete in us. Abiding means staying close to God, spending time with Him, and allowing His love to dwell in us through the Holy Spirit. Our confession (or aligning with God) that Jesus is the Son of God is central to this relationship (v15).

### Trust in God (1 John 4:16-18)

Our confidence in God's love for us casts out fear, especially when facing judgment. When we abide in God's perfect love, we are assured of His forgiveness, and we will be spared from condemnation. We will then be made perfect in God's love as we have a full understanding of His love for us. This perfect love also assures us that even when God disciplines us, He does so out of love.

## REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD

### Loving others (1 John 4:19-20)

We love because God first loved us. John points out that if we claim to love God but don't love others, we are lying (v20).

The gold standard for love, and probably the first demonstration of God's love for us is found in Gen 3:15. Despite Adam and Eve's sin, God still responded with love and gave us the life of His son as the redemption for our sins. Jesus' love for us, even when we were unlovable, sets the standard for how we are to love others, including our neighbors and even our enemies (Matt 5:43-46, Gal 5:14-15).

### Loving supernaturally

In order to love others the way God calls us to (in Gal 5:14-15), we need the fruit of the Spirit, and the first of these is love (Gal 5:22-23). We cannot love with our own strength, because the love of God is supernatural. We need to die to ourselves and love those who might even hurt us.

## CONCLUSION

We celebrate God's love for us by receiving the fullness of the love of God by knowing, abiding, and trusting in Him. Then, we reflect it to others. God went 100% of the way to love you. We must therefore go all out to love people.

# QUESTIONS

1. We can only give off that which we have received. Reflect how you have personally encountered our God of love this past week.

**Leader's notes** – This opener helps members to connect the text to their own lives. Encourage them to describe not just the event (e.g. worship, answered prayer, time of need) but also the impact (peace, assurance, joy, correction, provision). If someone struggles to think of a time, gently remind them that God's love often shows up in everyday moments, not just big spiritual experiences.

2. 1 John 4 says that if we love God, we must also love others. Why do you think John ties the two so tightly together? What makes this especially difficult when it comes to “unlovable” people?

**Leader's notes** – This pushes the group to engage the theology: John calls it hypocrisy to claim love for God while withholding love from others. Invite discussion on why love for God and love for people are inseparable (e.g. God's image in others, God's command, our witness). Draw out real struggles—betrayal, pride, personality clashes, cultural differences—so the group isn't just abstract but grounded in reality.

3. Is there a specific person in your life that God is calling you to love more intentionally? What steps can you take this week to show them God's love?

**Leader's notes** – This is the “hands-on” step. Encourage specificity (e.g. making a call, forgiving, serving, speaking kindly). If members are hesitant, suggest even small steps (praying for the person daily, refraining from harsh words). Close by reminding the group that this kind of love is supernatural—it comes from abiding in God, not our own willpower.