



Grace Group Guide

United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

-**Scripture:** Be in the Word together

-**Encouragement:** One another each other

-**Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost

-**Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!

Grace Group Guide

Week of 9/14

Ice Breaker: Opening / Warm-Up

- When you hear the word “love,” what comes to your mind first?
- If someone new to the faith asked you: “What is God’s love like?” How would you describe it?
- Who is someone in your life that has shown you Christlike love?
 - What impact did it have on you?

Leader Note: This helps people think personally about love before diving into the text. Allow a few stories to be shared.

Transition by saying:

“John’s letter reminds us that love isn’t just a nice idea—it’s the defining mark of knowing God. Let’s see what that means for us.”

Discussion: Observation

- **What words or phrases are repeated in this passage?**
 - **Why do you think John emphasizes them?**
 - *Leader Insight:* “Love” appears over a dozen times. Repetition signals importance. John is stressing that love is central to the Christian life.
- **How does John describe the connection between knowing God and loving others?**
 - *Leader Insight:* John makes it inseparable—if you know God, you love others. If you don’t love, you don’t really know Him.
- **What do verses 9–10 teach us about the nature of God’s love?**
 - *Leader Insight:* God’s love is self-initiated, sacrificial, and demonstrated in sending His Son. Love is defined not by our love for Him, but His love for us.

Transition:

“So John makes it clear: love isn’t optional for Christ followers—it’s evidence of God’s presence in us. Let’s think about why this matters.”

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

- **Why do you think John makes love the test of whether we truly know God (v. 7–8)?**
 - *Leader Insight:* Because God is love—His very nature. If we are connected to Him, His character will flow through us.
- **How did the sending of Jesus (v. 9–10) redefine the world’s idea of love?**
 - *Leader Insight:* The world often sees love as emotion, attraction, or reciprocity. God’s love is self-giving, costly, and undeserved.
- **What does it mean that “God’s love is made complete in us” (v. 12)?**

- **How do the Spirit's presence (v. 13–15) connect with living in God's love?**
 - *Leader Insight:* The Spirit enables us to love in ways we cannot on our own. The Spirit assures us we belong to God, which frees us to love without fear.

Transition:

"John's words aren't just theology—they're deeply practical. Let's consider what this looks like in our lives today."

Application (How do we live it out?)

- **In what ways do you struggle to love others the way God calls us to?**
- **How can our group (or church) better demonstrate God's love to one another and to our community?**
- **Verse 16 says, "Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." What might it look like, practically, to "live in love" this week?**
- *Leader Note:* Encourage people to identify *one specific relationship or action* where they can reflect God's love.

Closing Prayer

- Invite people to pray short prayers of thanks for God's love.
- End with a group prayer: asking the Spirit to empower you to love in real, tangible ways this week.