

**Learn to Love**  
**1 John 4:7-16**  
**LG Questions for 09/19/10**

**Getting Started**

Most small groups are re-forming after having taken the summer off. Share around the room the highlight/s from your summer break. Share a time from this past week when you communicated your love (not romantic love) for another without using words to do it. What did you do and how was it received?

**Getting Into the Bible**

1) Read 1 John 4:7-8. What would people who know you say of your ability to love those close to you (Friends, family and co-workers)? Do you suppose these are the people John was referring to regarding verse 8? Without naming names...who are those with whom it is difficult for you to love? Why do you have trouble loving that person?

2) Have one person read verse 8 and pause to insert that person's name (In the quietness of your mind) in this way: "Whoever does not love \_\_\_\_\_ does not know God, because God is love." How does inserting that person's name change your view of yourself?

3) Read 1 John 4:9-10. God sacrificed his beloved son because he loved us. He gave all he could give. Who is God challenging you to make more sacrifices of time and resources for? What adjustments do you need to make in your life in order to have God's power to serve this way?

4) Read 1 John 4:11-16. How deeply would you say is God dwelling in you based on your ability to love others? Has this ability changed over the course of your Christian walk? How? What does your answer say about your relationship with God? What do verses 14 and 15 have to do with our ability to love others?

**PRAYER**

Spend time praying for one another's ability to 'love others' and for growth in Christ in order to grow in our ability to love.