

Week of February 15, 2026 - Love Your Brothers & Sisters Small Group Lesson 8

Connect

Have you ever tried to go somewhere, but your brain was on "autopilot" and you accidentally went halfway in the wrong direction? What did you do to remedy the situation? How did it turn out?

Verses - 1 John 3:11-3:24 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another, 12 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. 16 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him — how does God's love reside in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth. 19 This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows all things. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. 23 Now this is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps his commands remains in him, and he in him. And the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he has given us.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. The text points to Cain as the ultimate example of what not to do. According to the text, why did Cain murder his brother? What is this a teaching example of? (v.13)

2. How do we know that we have passed from death to life? (v.14)

3. How does John define "love" in v.16? How was it accomplished and how can it now be accomplished? (v.16) How does is it look practically? (vv.17-18)

4. In vv.19-22, what happens when we are not loving each other? Why does it happen? (1 John 3:9, v.24)

5. What are His commands (v.23)? What is the result if we keep them? (v.22)

Share

DISCUSS 1

It is easy to tell someone "I'll pray for you" or "Let me know if you need anything." What is a practical way we can move from "Speech" to "Action" this week? Is there a "fellow believer in need" (v. 17) that you have been ignoring?

DISCUSS 2

How would you explain Saint Valentine's Day to a curious non-believer?

Minister to one another sharing specific prayer requests.