

# GROWTH GROUP

## Study Guide

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### Love at Home

#### My Story

1. What was one of your favorite “love songs” when you were a teenager?

#### Digging Deeper

2. Pastor McLain mentioned 4 different Greek words for love which help us to describe what it is. In one paragraph, summarize the Christian concept of Love.
3. Our love should be visible to others, especially within our own homes. How does 1 John 3:18 help us to understand the way in which we ought to love others in our families? Give 4 examples of what love could look like in a family?

4. We see godly love develop in our lives by being in a right relationship to Him who is love. Read 1 John 4:7-10. How has God demonstrated that He is love? How can a person know God and experience His love?

#### Reflection

5. What has helped you to love others in your family? What has hindered your love for your family?
6. How does a family living in love toward one another help to create a stable environment for everyone in the home?

# Love at Home

How solid are our homes? We learn early in life that the building materials of a home are important. Do you remember the story of the three pigs?

An essential building block for a strong home is love. It's a biblical truth, but because of the way that the idea of love is tossed around in our culture, we must go back to the Bible to discover the essential nature of this building block.

## I. The Description of Love

### A. The Four Greek Words

1. Eros-physical love. This word does not occur in NT, but the concept of physical love does. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
2. Storge-family affection. Occurs in NT only in Romans 12:10, "kindly-affectioned", where it is part of a compound word with philo, the adjective from philos.
3. Philos-cherishing, affection, friendship, marital love, family love. Matthew 10:37; John 5:20; 11:3, 36; Titus 2:4
4. Agape-sacrifice, commitment, an act of the will to desire the best and do the best for the object of love. 1 Corinthians 13

**Key Question:** Does everyone in the home desire to do what is best for the other members of the family? At the least, do you desire to do what is best for the rest of the family?

## II. The Display of Love

- A. By the Husband for the Wife: Ephesians 5:25
- B. By the Wife for the Husband: Titus 2:4
- C. By All and For All in the Family: Titus 2:4  
Note also the principle of 1 John 3:18.

**Key Question:** Is love woven into the fabric of your family so that it touches you at every point of family life?

## III. The Development of Love

1. A Right Relationship to God: 1 John 4:7-10
2. The Control of the Holy Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23

### Key Questions:

1. Are you a child of God?
2. Are you controlled by the Holy Spirit?

### Conclusion:

1. Love is an Attitude. It is a decision of the mind to seek what is best for the other person (agape). It is an attitude of affection (storge) and cherishing (philo).

*Specific step to take:* Pray with and for one another.

2. Love is an Action: It is a quality that all in the family must display.

*Specific step to take:* Learn one another's love languages.

- ❖ Words of affirmation
- ❖ Giving gifts
- ❖ Doing things for the other person
- ❖ Spending time with the other person
- ❖ Touch

3. Love is an Ability: It is an ability given by God. The world has its love, and its life-long relationships, and its strong families, but what the Bible describes is an ability that is produced supernaturally through the work of the Holy Spirit.

*Specific step to take:* Daily submit yourself to God's ways, God's will, and God's word.

Love is a quality that will make our homes stable against the winds of adversity and will keep them standing amidst the tremblers that shake our world. The enemy will huff and puff, but it won't blow down the home built on the love of God.