

Parish of Ferndown
Study Sheet for week commencing 19th April 2010
“A Loving God” 1 John 4:7-21

INTRODUCTION

- What it is the first thing you see in your mind when you hear the word, “love”?
- In what ways is the word “love” used in our culture?
- Does this affect how we view God’s love in any way?

BIBLE APPLICATION

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21
2. What is the ultimate test of Christianity?
3. When so called Christians are un-loving, why is this scandalous?
4. “If we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us.” Why is this both wonderful and terrifying?
5. How do we know that we live in God, and he in us? (v.13)
6. In what supreme way did God demonstrate love?
7. What is the only appropriate response to the Cross of Christ?
8. When we continue to live in sin, fear enters in to the equation. Why?
9. Why does perfect love drive out fear? Can you describe the feeling of being perfectly loved, unconditionally? Have a go!
10. In what ways do verses 19-21 challenge the way we live (a) with people who do not like us (b) with people we do not like(!)

PRAYER

- Take time to **Adore** God! Perhaps name out loud some of the other characteristics that are summarised by his love e.g. “we thank you Lord for your patience”
- Take time to **Confess** sin – for cold-heartedness towards God or people, which robs us of real joy and spiritual authority
- **Thank God** that he forgives us, and that we have a new opportunity today to walk in the way of love afresh
- **Ask God** to fill your Small Group with his Holy Spirit – who produces love in us!

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