

## ***GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION***

**Love One Another**

**1 John 3:11–24**

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 1 John 3:16*

### **Day 1: Read 1 John 3:11–18.**

1. Review 1 John 3:10 from last week. Jot down the two groups into which everyone is divided along with the characteristics of each. Let this verse serve as a backdrop for this week's study.
2. What is the message John's readers had heard "from the beginning"(vs. 11)? What is the significance of this message? (Jn. 13:34, 35)
3. Scan today's passage. What two people does John choose to represent the two groups mentioned in verse 10?
4. Read about Cain in verses 12ff and in Genesis 4:1–12 (see also Heb. 11:4 and 1 Jn. 2:9–11). Describe Cain's actions and attitudes.

### **Day 2: Read 1 John 3:11–18.**

5. Why do you think John picks Cain to represent the "children of the devil" (vs. 10)?
6. What common traits are shared by the murderer and the hater? Explain why those who are unrighteous hate those who are righteous.
7. Examine your own heart. What emotions do you have to suppress when God gives blessings to others that he has denied you? Ask God to show you where sin is "crouching at your door" (Gen. 4:7).
8. Heartwise, what's the difference between you and Cain?
9. What hope is there for us who have hearts that often lean towards hatred rather than love? (Recall 1 Jn. 1:9; 2:28.)

**Day 3: Read 1 John 3:11–18.**

10. What has to happen before we can love others? (vs. 14)
11. How does someone pass from death to life (vs. 14)? (see Jn. 5:24)
12. Compare the end results of hatred (Cain—vs. 12) and love (Christ—vs. 16).

**Day 4: Read 1 John 3:16–18.**

13. What does it mean to love one another? (vs. 16; see also Jn. 15:12–13)
14. John uses the phrase “lay down our lives.” Describe what this phrase means.
15. Where do you struggle with laying down your life? Think of some ways you can love not only with words, but with actions.
16. Where does this self-sacrificing love come from and how can you experience it? (Review 1 Jn. 2:24.)

**Day 5: Read 1 John 3:16–24.**

17. What is the phrase, repeated in verses 19 and 24, that shows John’s concern for our assurance of God’s love for us?
18. What counsel does John give to those who experience self-condemnation and doubt? As God’s children, where is our assurance anchored?
19. Who is the ultimate source of our knowledge and assurance? (vs. 24; Jn. 14:23–27; Rom. 8:16)