

BEULAHLAND BIBLE CHURCH



CHURCH WIDE CAMPAIGN

**A Small Group Study Guide
By
Beulahland Bible Church**

Love Matters

Week 1: Love, Light & Lies (1 John 1:5 – 2:2)

Week 2: The Wrong Kind of Love (1 John 2:12-17)

Week 3: This is Love (1 John 3:16-23)

Week 4: Knowing God Through Love (1 John 4:7-16)

Week 5: When Love Grows Up (1 John 4:17-21)

Week 6: The Testimony of an Overcomer (1 John 5:1-5)

How to use this Small Group Study Guide

There are six small group sessions in this guide. Each session follows the same format:

Reading about Love Matters: This section has the passage of scripture that the week's session is based on. Read it daily.

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes: To successfully get the most out of each session, it is very important for you to hear the Sunday Sermon each week. Pastor Kelly will be preaching on the scriptures that you will be discussing with your small group. **The Sermon Notes** section is a place where you can take notes each week during the Sunday Sermon for your own understanding.

Studying about Love Matters – Bible Study Notes: This section is a place where you can take notes each week during **Bible Study**.

Talking About Love Matters: This section will be used during your small group discussion time. You should respond to these questions in your personal time during the week, and be prepared to discuss your responses during your group time.

Thinking about Love Matters: This section is a place where you can personally reflect upon what you have been reading, hearing, writing, and praying throughout the week. You can write your daily thoughts here. You can also share your personal reflections during your small group time.

Week 1: Love, Light & Lies

Reading about Love Matters

1 John 1:5–10 (NKJV) — **5** This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us

1 John 2:1–2 (NKJV) — **1** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes

Sermon Focus:

Main Points:

Talking about Love Matters – Small Group Discussion

1. Talk about one thing that stood out to you in Pastor Kelly's messages (Sermon or Bible Study).
2. How can we lie according to v. 6?
3. How would you respond to someone who believes that being a Christian has nothing to do with their lifestyle and behavior?
4. According to verse 7, what are some benefits of walking in the light?
5. What deceptive mindset is addressed in v. 8?
6. Why do you think that people are hesitant to talk about sin?

7. According to verse 9, what must we do to receive God's forgiveness for our sin?

Have you ever tried to hang onto, cover up, or hide your sin?

Is there sin that you need to confess today?

8. How does knowing that Jesus is your Advocate change your daily lifestyle (verse 2:1)?

What are the implications of this truth when we think about sharing the gospel with others (v2.2)?

Week 2: The Wrong Kind of Love

Reading about Love Matters

1 John 2:12–17 (NKJV) — **12** I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. **13** I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. **14** I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one. **15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. **17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes

Sermon Focus:

Main Points:

Talking about Love Matters – Small Group Discussion

1. Talk about one thing that stood out to you in Pastor Kelly's messages (Sermon or Bible Study).

2. In your spiritual life, which of the three stages John addresses in verses 12-14 can you most relate to: little children, young men, or fathers?
Why?

3. Have you ever thought that you were experiencing the "right kind of love" only to later discover that it was the "wrong kind of love?"

If so, then why did you think it was right?

What made you see that it was wrong?

4. According to verse 2:15 what is the wrong kind of biblical love?

5. What are some things that you cannot love when you choose to love God?

How can you balance being in the world but not loving the things of the world above God?

6. John lists three typical features of the sinful world. What are they? (v. 15)

What are some daily desires that fit into these three categories?

What are some practical ways we can combat each of these temptations?
(also reference Jesus and Matthew 4:1-11)

7. Which temptation do you struggle with the most?

Can you make a commitment today to do what is necessary to have victory over your temptation? Explain.

Thinking about Love Matters – My Personal Reflections

1. What stood out to you this week in reading and meditating on God's Word?

2. Take action to practice God's word this week:

- Is there an **example** you need to follow?
- Is there a **sin** you need to avoid?
- Is there a **command** you need to follow?
- Is there a **promise** you need to claim?

3. What prayer requests do you have?

Week 3: This is Love

Reading about Love Matters

1 John 3:16–23 (NKJV) — 16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. **17** But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? **18** My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. **19** And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. **20** For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. **21** Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. **22** And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. **23** And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes

Sermon Focus:

Main Points:

Talking about Love Matters – Small Group Discussion

1. Talk about one thing that stood out to you in Pastor Kelly's messages (Sermon or Bible Study).

2. Love requires sacrifice. When you think about sacrifice what comes to mind?

What is one of the biggest sacrifices that you personally have had to make?

Why were you willing to make the sacrifice? What made it worth it?

3. How did Christ demonstrate love (v. 3:16)?

What does it look like for us to "lay down our lives for our brothers"?

Would you say that you are able to love all Christians?

4. When do we sometimes put our own comfort ahead of the needs of others?

What are some ways you could leave your comfort zone and show someone Jesus' love this week?

5. Verse 3:22 says, "And whatever we ask we receive from Him." Does this mean that you get everything you pray for? Explain.
6. Based upon verse 3:23, is loving others optional as a Christian?

Week 4: Knowing God Through Love

Reading about Love Matters

1 John 4:7–16 (NKJV) — **7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **9** In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. **15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes

Sermon Focus:

Main Points:

Talking about Love Matters – Small Group Discussion

1. Talk about one thing that stood out to you in Pastor Kelly's messages (Sermon or Bible Study).
2. If someone were to ask you to define love, how would you respond?
3. In what ways is God's demonstration of love in Jesus Christ different from the way the world loves?

Since God's love for us was an action, in what ways can we act to love others?

4. What would you say to a Christian who claims to love God but:
 - Carries a grudge against another Christian?
 - Won't forgive another Christian?
 - Won't speak to another Christian when they see them?
 - Plots evil against another Christian?

5. When we fail to love others, what does it reveal about our own relationship with God?

6. According to v.13, what gift has God given you?

Why is this gift important?

7. Take a moment to assess where you are spiritually in this season of your life. Are you abiding in Christ to the degree you would like to?

If not, what can you do to change that?

How can you encourage others in this also?

Week 5: When Love Grows

Reading about Love Matters

1 John 4:17–21 (NKJV) — **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. **19** We love Him because He first loved us. **20** If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? **21** And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes

Sermon Focus:

Main Points:

Talking about Love Matters – Small Group Discussion

1. Talk about one thing that stood out to you in Pastor Kelly's messages (Sermon or Bible Study).
2. What are some ways that we let fear rule our lives more than confidence in Christ?
3. According to verse 17, how does the love of God in your life remove any fears you might have about the day of judgment?

How does knowing that all humanity will either face eternal life or eternal judgment motivate your desire to share the gospel?

4. What additional reasons do verses 4:19-21 give us for why we should practice godly love?
5. According to verse 4:20, what does the Bible call someone who says, "I love God" and hates his brother?

How does this fact impact how you treat others?

6. Why do we sometimes find it easier to say that we love God, “whom we have never seen”, than to love those “whom we see every day?”

7. Do you have someone that you have a difficult time “getting along with” that God needs to help you love?

8. What specific steps will you take this week to demonstrate your love for another believer? Share it with your group.

Thinking about Love Matters – My Personal Reflections

1. What stood out to you this week in reading and meditating on God's Word?
2. Take action to practice God's word this week:
 - Is there an **example** you need to follow?
 - Is there a **sin** you need to avoid?
 - Is there a **command** you need to follow?
 - Is there a **promise** you need to claim?
3. What prayer requests do you have?

Week 6: The Testimony of an Overcomer

Reading about Love Matters

1 John 5:1–5 (NKJV) — **1** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **5** Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Hearing about Love Matters – Sermon Notes

Sermon Focus:

Main Points:

Talking about Love Matters – Small Group Discussion

1. Talk about one thing that stood out to you in Pastor Kelly's messages (Sermon or Bible Study).
2. What does verse 5:1 tell us about who is born of God?

Why is this important regarding a Christian's belief about salvation?

3. How does John tell us to love in verses 5:2-3?
4. What does 5:3 say about God's commandments?

Do you feel that God's commands are sometimes a burden? Explain.

5. What does your current level of obedience to God communicate about the depth of your love for Him?

Where do you struggle to follow the commands that God has given us?

6. How do we become overcomers (5:4-5)?

7. What is your testimony as an overcomer? Share with your group.

