

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

March 30, 2008

Focus: To explore how we view the people around us while looking at John's call to love our brother.

I John - Lesson #5 Loving, Hating, and Ignoring Your Neighbor

Introduction: In life, many of us have people we struggle with. They don't function like we do or they don't do things the way we think they should be done. We know we are supposed to love our neighbors but...

- Begin tonight with a discussion about the qualities of people you struggle with.
- Describe the times you do well at loving people you struggle with versus the times you don't do well. What is the difference?

Text: I John 2: 7-11

- Explain how this love for people is both an old command as well as a new one.
- Examine what John means by "the darkness is passing away."
- Describe how Gnostics view other people...what is John confronting here?
- John seems to be saying you are either in the dark or in the light...there seems to be no grey area. What is he communicating?
- "The darkness has blinded him." How does darkness blind these people?

Application:

- Articulate how vs. 9 makes you feel about your walk.
- How do you view people? Are they...
 1. Blessings or Bothers
 2. Equals or Inferior
 3. Seen or Invisible
 4. God's creation or....
- Are we really different than the people down the street? The people on the other side of town? The prostitute?
- Evaluate why we try to create differences between us and those not like us
- How is John challenging you tonight?