Lesson 4 -What Matters Most?

The moment you were born again, spiritually, you received some great birthday gifts: a spiritual family, the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, intimate access to your Father in heaven and a brilliant inheritance. Now you get to learn how to love like God does.

2 John 1:6. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

1 Corinthians 13:3b No matter what I say, what I believe and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love. (Msg)

Galatians 5:14. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.

1 John 4:8, 16b But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. . . God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5**It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 John 3:1 See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called His children, and we really are!

Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.

Hebrews 2:11 So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.

Galatians 5:22-25 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**23**gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! **24**Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. **25**Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Read 2 John 1:6, 1 Corinthians 13:3b and Galatians 5:14. If we truly love God, how will our love be shown?

2. Read 1 John 4:8 and 16b, and finish this sentence: Since God is love, I am most like God when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Which of these characteristics of real love are easiest for you to practice? Which are hardest?

4. What do 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 1:5 and Hebrews 2:11 tell you about who you are, once you’ve put your faith in Jesus to save you? How does this make you feel?

5. What barriers keep you from loving and caring for other believers?

6. Read Galatians 5:22-25. What wonderful resource have you been given to help you love others better? Would you say you are living by the spirit and following the Holy Spirit’s lead, or still living more by your own wits and passions? Explain.

7. What are some of the changes you have seen in your life since you’ve become a believer? What have others noticed?

8. A year from now, how would you like to be more Christlike? What can you begin doing today to move toward that goal?

9. As part of God’s family, we get to keep loving each other and helping each other grow in Christ. Read the verses mentioned below, and jot down in your own words, next to each scripture reference, what it says about your responsibilities toward your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hebrews 3:13:

James 5:19-20:

Acts 2:42:

10. Write down 3 or more declarations about who you are to God, and how He feels about you, based on this week’s scriptures.

11. Journal any of these verses SOAP style.