

# Sermon Growth Guide

**August 8, 2021**

**What Great Love - Love Wins the Day**

**1 John 5:1-12**

**Key Verse:** 1 John 5:11 "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

**Big Idea:** Don't miss God's gift of love to you.



## Foundations

Today we conclude our series **What Great Love**. And what a gift we have to hear from Jim DeJarnette as he moves into his retirement years after faithfully serving First Pres alongside his wife, Barb, for 39 years. Thank you, Jim and Barb!

Jim proclaims, "Our Scripture this morning is about the full expression of God's love through the incarnation of His Son Jesus and the powerful victory won by His birth, death and resurrection."

There is so much in this world that tempts us to fear, isn't there? Yet we are reminded again through today's passage that God's love is sure and we rest secure knowing that nothing comes in between God's love and God's children.

Jim continues, "Draw close to Jesus. Let Him into every detail of your daily life. He redeems and transforms you in ways beyond our imagining—beyond our deepest hopes. He changes us; heals us. He extends mercy and grace to the beginnings of our stories, and He rewrites the ends of our stories! Do you believe it?"

Pray that God will guide and guard your Life Group, growing you each this week by God's Great Love into an even purer reflection of the beloved Son.

## Understanding God's Word

According to verse 3, how do we know we love God?

In verse 3, John writes that the commands of the Lord are not burdensome. Do you find this to be the case in your own life? Host a conversation about what John is experiencing here and how that might affect your walk.

What is "the testimony" in verse 11 and how can you better live out of this testimony?

## Applying God's Word

We are reminded today that we belong to God and we are exhorted to not miss God's gift of love to us. Share with those around you how you can better allow the love of God to penetrate your mind and heart.

## Witnessing God's Word

Jim concludes his sermon by encouraging us to ask ourselves if, in our own pride and short-sightedness, we have missed the fullness of God's love for us. What about those around you? Will you pray the prayer Jim taught us today? "Lord, glorify Yourself..." by using me to display your love to \_\_\_\_\_ this week. Amen, may you be greatly encouraged to pass on the very love of God that you have experienced throughout your years to those who need it the most.