God is Love

Lesson 44: 1 John
Introduction
Family
Our Earthly Family

We all belong to the same family

John teaches how our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ show their love for us, and how we can show love for them
Background

Context and implications of John’s writings
Who was John?

- Born in 6 AD, follower of John the Baptist
- LDS believe that John was translated; he was the last surviving apostle
- Brother of James (first martyred apostle)
- Witnessed the raising of Jairus’ daughter
- Christ rebuked James and John for trying to call down fire on a village
- Witnessed the Agony in Gethsemane
- Prepared Passover with Peter
- The disciple that Jesus loved
- Received priesthood keys at Transfiguration
- Stayed at the feet of Jesus during the crucifixion
- Jesus asked him to take care of his mother
- Peter, James, John – Pillars of the Church
John’s Epistles

- Johannine (Gospel of John; 1, 2, 3 John; Revelations)
- John concerned with Heresy by Christian teachers toward end of 1st century; considered anti-christs
- Gospel may have been written to the Ebionites (Christian Jews; Nazarenes)
- Possibly rebuked Cerinthus (a Gnostic that taught the Christ only visited Jesus) and that Jesus was not divine
- Focus on the concept of “manifestations”
1 John 5:7 – Corruption of Scripture

Sir Isaac Newton wrote “An Historical Account of Two Notable Corruptions of Scripture”

Did not publish this anti-trinity work because of the Blasphemy Act of 1697

Argues that this Scripture along with 1 Timothy 3:16 were added by the Church to justify the Trinity doctrine

These scriptures do not appear in early translations

“7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”
Manifestations of God’s Love

Our Heavenly Father’s Love for Us
Describe God with One Word

1 John 4:8; 16

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”
How is God’s Love Manifest?

- We are the spiritual Sons (and daughters) of God
- We will be called his children
- We are to be made like Christ (glorified and exalted)
- We are joint-heirs (Romans 8: 14-17)

1 John 3:1 – 2

- 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
The Spirit – God’s Gift

1 John 4:13

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”
Prayer – God’s Gift

1 John 5: 14 - 15

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”
“We love him, because he first loved us.”
1 John 4:19

“Our Heavenly Father’s plan contains the ultimate expressions of true love. All that we hold dear—even our families, our friends, our joy, our knowledge, our testimonies—would vanish were it not for our Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. ... The world has witnessed no greater gift, nor has it known more lasting love”
Thomas S. Monson – April 1993
Manifestations of Christ’s Love

Our Savior’s Love for Us
1 John 3:16

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
1 John 1: 7-9

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 5: 11-13

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
propitiation

- Idemnity (a sum paid to a party as compensation for a loss suffered)
- This is accomplished through the Atonement of Christ

1 John 4: 9-10

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
How can we show our Love

For our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ?
Obedience

1 John 2: 3-6

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”
Love Not the World

1 John 2: 15-17

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
Love One Another

1 John 4: 7-8; 11

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.”