

## SEPTEMBER 2025 PRAYER SERVICE

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### Prayer Service for Chapter 1 of “Love is Much More Than Love” Study Topic

The Chapter focuses on 1 John 4:16-19

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#### **TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:**

(1 John 4:16-19) These verses present the core of the Christian mystery: the mutual indwelling of God and believers through love. 1 John 4:16-19 teaches that knowing God as love leads us to receive life through Christ, to love one another, and to live without fear, because perfect love—grounded in the assurance of God’s presence—overcomes all anxiety. This love is both the source and the proof of our communion with God.

To complement 1 John 4:16-19, here are some related passages from the Bible:

1. John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world...” Shows the origin of the love that 1 Jn 4:16 declares God is, and points to the incarnation as the ultimate act of love. The sacrificial love of God for humanity.
2. 1 John 3:18 – “Let us love one another, for love comes from God.” Echoes 1 Jn 4:19’s call to love one another as the response to God’s love. Fraternal love as evidence of knowing God.
3. 1 John 4:7-8 – “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God... God is love.” Directly precedes 4:16-19 and explains that love is the very nature of God, the foundation of the later verses. God’s nature as love.
4. Romans 5:8 – “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Highlights that the love spoken of in 4:16-19 is demonstrated through Christ’s atoning sacrifice. Love revealed through Christ’s death.
5. Galatians 5:6 – “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Links love with the Christian life, mirroring 4:19’s call to love because God first loved us. Faith and love as the essence of Christian living.
6. Ephesians 5:1-2 – “Be imitators of God, for love is the fulfillment of the law.” Directs believers to imitate God’s love, the very message of 4:16-19. Living out God’s love in daily life.

Together with 1 John 4:16-19, these scriptures paint a fuller picture of God’s love: its divine origin, its redemptive work in Christ, its command to be lived out toward each other, and its power to cast out fear.

#### **1 John 4:16-19**

*We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.*

#### **A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:**

#### **SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:**

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

### **PRAYER INTENTIONS:**

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

### **LITURGICAL PRAYER:**

Several Psalms complement **1 John 4:16-19**:

1. Psalm 23 Portrays the Lord as a loving Shepherd who "leads us beside still waters" and whose "goodness and mercy...follow us." This picture of God's tender care undergirds the claim "God is love" (1 Jn 4:16). "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil" – the assurance that perfect love casts out fear.
2. Psalm 31 Speaks of God's "steadfast love" that saves and shields the faithful. The psalmist's confidence that "the Lord is my rock and my salvation" mirrors the confidence of believers who "abide in God and He in us."
3. Psalm 27 Declares the Lord as "my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" – a vivid biblical expression of the Johannine truth that perfect love removes fear.
4. Psalm 36 Highlights God's "steadfast love ... extending to the heavens" and the "refuge" found in His wings (v. 7). This divine love is the source of the love that believers are called to share with one another.
5. Psalm 51 A penitential psalm that repeatedly invokes "your steadfast love" (v. 1). It shows that the love spoken of in 1 Jn 4:16 is the same mercy that meets us in our sinfulness and draws us into communion with God.

Together, these Psalms provide a rich, Old-Testament backdrop that deepens our understanding of the New-Testament mystery of divine love, its expression in Christ, and its outworking in the life of the faithful.

### **Psalm 27:1-6**

***Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?*

*The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?*

***Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

*When evildoers come at me to devour my flesh,*

*These my enemies and foes themselves stumble and fall.*

***Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

*Though an army encamp against me, my heart does not fear;*

*Though war be waged against me, even then do I trust.*

***Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

*One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek:*

*To dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life,*

*To gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple.*

**Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

*For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble,  
He will conceal me in the cover of his tent; and set me high upon a rock.*

**Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

*Even now my head is held high above my enemies on every side!  
I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and chant praise to the Lord..*

**Response: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?***

### **CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:**

+Prayer for Married Couples inspired by 1 John 4:16-19

**ALL:**

*Heavenly Father, Source of all love,*

*We come before you as husband and wife, grateful for the gift of one another and for the love that fills our hearts. You have revealed to us that “God is love” and that “whoever loves God must also love his neighbor”. May this truth be the foundation of our marriage.*

*Lord, help us to abide in your love as you abide in us, so that your love may be made complete in us. Grant us the grace to let the love you showed through your Son — who gave himself for us — grow ever deeper within us, so that we may give it freely to each other.*

*Teach us to see one another as you see us: beloved children, partners on the journey of faith, and coworkers in the mission of the Church. May the perfect love that casts out fear be the light that dispels every doubt and anxiety in our home.*

*Strengthen our bond with the Holy Spirit, that the love we share becomes a living testimony of the love between Christ and his Bride, the Church. May our marriage be a sanctuary of peace, hope, and the light of your presence, drawing all who see us to the love that only you can give.*

*Amen.*

### **DEEP POOLING:**

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

### **SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:**

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.