

BIG IDEA

Fear shrinks your soul; love expands it.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Describe the most recent time you remember being really afraid. What happened?

Read 1 John 4:7-16. How does this passage deepen your understanding of love?

Compare and contrast John's understanding of love with the way our culture understands love.

Read 1 John 4:18-19. How does John challenge the way you think about God and the concept of punishment?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Do you feel more loved by God or afraid of God? Why?

Respond to Cal's statement from this week's message: *You can't love someone you are afraid of.*

Be honest. Is your soul shrinking or expanding? Explain your answer.

What person or people group do you have the most difficulty loving? Who is easiest for you to love? Why the difference?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Read 1 John 4:20-21 and reflect on the last week. How do you treat the flesh-and-blood people Jesus has placed in your life? How is Jesus leading you to repentance?

How much risk are you willing to take in order to truly love others? How is that demonstrated in your everyday life?

Is there an area of your life where fear has distorted reality? How will you keep your eyes fixed on the truth in the midst of uncertain times?

What bold steps of love can you make to affect change in the lives of those around you?

