

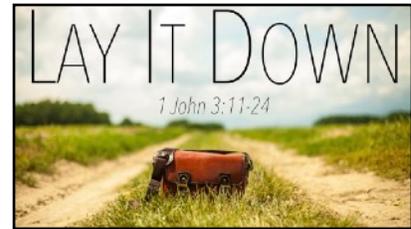
## **GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE**

SERMON SERIES: "1ST JOHN"

SERMON TITLE: "LAY IT DOWN"

DATE PREACHED: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST 2018

PREACHER: CODY BALCH



◆ **Facilitator NOTE:** As you prepare ahead of time, look through the passages/questions below to help yourself prioritize the things that you definitely want to cover with the time you have available. You likely will not be able to cover all this material. Try to keep the studies to around an hour for the kids/kids-helpers sake.

### •✎ SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

"If your arms are so full of your self, than your arms will never be free to fully show the love of Jesus to others."

*(use the questions you want to use, ignore the ones you don't want to use, and add any that you think would be good)*

### **WARM UP QUESTIONS:**

- ☞ How do selfishness and pride get in the way, or even block us, from loving God and loving others?
- ☞ What are things in this world that God has given us that could either be used to help people or hurt people?
- ☞ What are things in our life that can keep us from being available to act out our love for God and others? (examples: un-forgiveness, bitterness, hatred, busyness, greed, hobbies)
- ☞ How does a "defeatist" mentality keep people from living into the fullness that God has designed for them?

*Start by having someone (or multiple people) read: **1 John 3:11-24***

**11** For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **12** Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. **15** Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

**16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17** If anyone has

material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18** Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**19** This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence: **20** If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. **21** Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God **22** and receive from Him anything we ask, because we keep His commands and do what pleases Him. **23** And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. **24** The one who keeps God's commands lives in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

❖ SECTION ONE THEME: LIFE OR DEATH – WE ARE CALLED TO HELP (NOT HURT).

**1 John 3:11-15** — “**11** For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **12** Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. **13** Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. **14** We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. **15** Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.”

- 🗨️ How can hammer be used to both help some or hurt someone? How is the same true for your life?
- 🗨️ Which one is more appealing to receive? Love or Hate? Than why are we still so tempted to treat people in other ways than that of our favorite way to be treated, with love?
- 🗨️ Why is the author John, and the teaching of Jesus (Matthew 5:21-22) so harsh when it comes to comparing hatred and anger towards someone with that of murder? What are they trying to get at? (hint: if God is love, than anything apart from love is apposed to God, who is life itself).

❖ SECTION TWO THEME: ACTIONS OR WORDS — WE ARE AVAILABLE TO ACT.

**1 John 3:16-18** — “**16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17** If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18** Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

- 🗨️ Do you think most “Christians” are all talk, or back it up through their actions?
- 🗨️ How does the example of Jesus’ life and death help inspire you and move you to loving action?
- 🗨️ What could you let go of or give away to better be available to show the love of Jesus and help others who are in need?
  - Can you ever out-give God?
  - Can you ever run out of God’s love to share with others?
  - Do you believe that the more you give, the more you will receive from God the eternal things that only He can give us? (love, hope, joy, contentment, peace, faith, etc...)

❖ SECTION THREE THEME: FREE OR CONDEMNED — WE ARE FREE TO LOVE.

**1 John 3:19-24** — “**19** This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence: **20** If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything. **21** Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God **22** and receive from Him anything we ask, because we keep His commands and do what pleases Him. **23** And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. **24** The one who keeps God’s commands lives in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.”

- 🗨️ How would having a warrant out for your arrest inhibit you from living a full life, taking advantage of the opportunities to help impact other's lives?
- 🗨️ Similarly, how does a “guilty/condemned” heart toward God inhibit us from fully living into the good things of love towards others that God calls us to?
- 🗨️ How does being free from condemnation toward God free us to live a righteous and obedient life of God’s love towards others?
- 🗨️ What are your thoughts on John saying that God’s commands are: **1)** Believe in Jesus and **2)** Love others? Sound familiar (Matthew 22:36-40)? Too simplistic or refreshing?

### **TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU “TAKEAWAY”:**

- ☀️ How will you allow the love of Jesus to flow through you to help others, turn words into action, and free you up to love in a selfless and sacrificial way?

❖ Close in prayer.

### **MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID’S LESSON:**

- I’d encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids}).
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus’ help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they’d like to say a prayer for the group.

▶️ **Read 1 John 3:16-18** — “**16** This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17** If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18** Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

### **Ask the kiddos questions like:**

- How did Jesus show us His love?
- How can we show other people God’s love through our lives?

### **Activity:**

 Use snack time as a hands on teaching lesson. Instead of you handing out snack, people can only get the snack if someone else gets it for them, and they in turn can help give snack to other people. Try starting with one person who you give the snack to, and then they can in turn give snacks to other people, who can in turn give snacks to other people. Eventually (quickly) everyone should have a snack and no one got it for themselves. Pretty cool and fun!