



August 04 .....Be Disciples Make Disciples

August 11 ..... Love God

August 18 ..... Love Community

August 25 ..... Love World





# Pastor's Introduction

Maybe you are new to the Wallace family and are wondering what our church is all about. Maybe you have been a part of the family for a long time but have been minimally involved. Maybe you are all-in on our church's mission. No matter where you are, this new sermon series is for you! Each August, we have our "Join the Mission" series, which is a challenge to join in our mission to "be disciples and make disciples." We will learn how our church seeks to fulfill our God-given mission and how you can play your part.

We will be studying through parts of 1 John for four weeks as we see how our mission comes from the Word of God. We will conclude our series on September 1 with our annual Day of Prayer. This special Sunday is completely devoted to worship and prayer and is one of the highlights of the year. You don't want to miss it! As we begin a new school year, it's time to "Join the Mission"!!

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "John T. Green" with a stylized, cursive script. The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent "J" and "G".

Ed. TG



**Participant Guide for August 4, 2024**

# **Be Disciples Make Disciples**

1 John 2:3-6

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## **Highlight**

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

## **Explain**

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Imagine a friend who calls themselves an avid runner but only runs once a year. Would you consider them to be an avid runner? For someone to claim something about themselves, is a seldom occurrence enough to claim that as an active identity?
2. According to 1 John 2:3-6, does simply saying you know God reflect true faith? Can you think of specific examples from the passage that show this? What are some ways we can actively live out our faith in daily life?
3. Following Jesus' teachings isn't always easy, even in the modern world. What are some of the biggest challenges we face today in being a disciple? What difficulties do you think people encounter when making disciples of others?
4. Sometimes, we might follow religious practices out of habit without really thinking about them. How can we tell the difference between simply going through the motions and our actions truly reflecting God's will?
5. How can we create a cycle of growth within our Connect group, where we both learn and share our faith journey? How can we better support each other in deepening our understanding while equipping ourselves to introduce others to Jesus' teachings?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated?**

- ◆ It's hard to make disciples if you're not first being a disciple. This week, focus on the ways you're actively being a disciple of Jesus and work on identifying and improving an area where you struggle.



## Participant Guide August 11, 2024

# Love God

1 John 3:1-10



## Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

## Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. What are some of your ideas about what it means to love God?
2. Read 1 John 3:5-6. Someone explain what this does and doesn't mean. Does it mean we will never sin if we know Christ? Does it mean if we do sin, we don't know Christ?
3. Someone read Isaiah 29:13. How many people who profess to know Christ as Lord pay "lip service" to Him but not "life service"? What must we do, as believers, to live a progressively more sanctified/mature Christian life?
4. Now, let's make it a bit more personal. Do you Love God? Does your life give witness to that fact? If your answer is sometimes, how can accountable discipleship move you toward most times?
5. How many of you would admit that you need more accountability in your life, not judgment, but loving accountability to help your walk match your talk? Are you aware of what part of the discipleship pathway is designed to help with that?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Consider starting a D-Group within the next month. Take a step of commitment by texting DGroup to 865-234-3241



## Participant Guide for August 18, 2024

# Love Community

1 John 3:11-24



## Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

## Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:





## Apply

1. Have you had any extraordinary experiences serving your community and sharing your faith in the past year? Did any of these opportunities push you a bit outside your comfort zone? What tips or tricks do you have for overcoming those jitters and diving into serving others?
2. In verse 11, John says, "This is the message we have heard from the beginning: We should love one another." What does John mean by "the beginning"? How does this connect to the idea of loving others in the Old Testament?
3. The passage talks about love being the evidence of our faith (v. 18). Think about a time when you saw someone in your community show love in a way that made recognize the genuineness of their faith. Share your story.
4. Can love for our community ever conflict with our love for God or our family? How can we navigate these situations?
5. How can we create a more loving and supportive community within our church or other groups we belong to?

## Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
  - ◆ Consider the different gifts and resources God has given you. What are some creative ways you can meet the needs of our community and show love in action?



## Participant Guide for August 25, 2024

# Love World

1 John 4:1-14



## Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

## Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Why should we avoid being frustrated with the craziness of our world as it is today?
2. If our response to a crazy sin-filled world and a culture that has lost its mind should not be frustration, what does the scripture tell us our response should be?
3. If love is to be our response, what does that love look like? What practical things can you do to show love to those who don't look, live, and think like you? What are some things your group can do to show the love of God to our community?
4. Read 1 John 4:11-14. How does this say our love should ultimately be shown? How can we be VERY intentional about proclaiming the Gospel, God's ultimate love, to a world in desperate need of a Savior?
5. When you think about your church activities, how much of your time is spent building relationships with those who don't know Christ? Are we truly loving the world, or do we engage them just enough to appease our guilt for not engaging the world? How can we truly become a people who love the world with the Gospel?

## Respond

### → **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Consider starting an E-Group within the next month. Take a step toward commitment by texting EGroup to 865-234-3241.
- ◆ Consider expanding your borders by texting Missions to 865-234-3241 and expressing interest in being involved in North American and/or International Missions. ■ ■ ■ DW