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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God's eternal love is the source of our eternal life

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
Love sent my Savior to die in my
stead, Why should He love me
so? Meekly to Calvary's cross He
was led, Why should He love me
so? —Harkness

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
In this is love, not that we loved
God, but that He loved us and
sent His Son to be the propitiation
for our sins.

(1 John 4:10 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", July 13, 2004)

Series: THE SPIRIT COMES

**UNIT: The Community of
Beloved Disciples**

NEXT WEEK

Watch Out for Deceivers

(2 John 1:1-13)

Trust in God's Love

1 John 4:13-5:5

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reminds us that we should always **Trust in God's Love**. The **study's aim** is to grasp and understand the depth of God's love and how it is demonstrated through the loving expressions of believers. The **study's application** is to demonstrate consistent love to God and to others.
(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

In the writings of John, the word world is used in a specific way. The Greek word behind that translation is kosmos; this is the source of our English word cosmos. We combine it with other roots to make various words. An example is cosmopolitan, one meaning of which is "having worldwide rather than limited scope." The ancient Greeks did not think of kosmos in geographical terms; they would not have equated it with planet Earth in a physical way. For them, the kosmos was the ordered world, the society and culture that had been built by humanity. This was the framework within which people lived in cities and villages, farmed the land, spoke common languages, and engaged in commerce. Their kosmos included government structures and religious institutions. Perhaps the closest equivalent for us today would be the concept of civilization. For the apostle John, the world (kosmos) is a hostile, dangerous place that is in rebellion against God. It has rejected God's standards and embraced sin instead. To use John's metaphors, the world is a place where people love darkness rather than light (John 3:19). This is not the world God created, but the world that has strayed far from its Creator. God loves the world despite this rebellion (John 3:16; compare 13:1). God's created children have rejected his kingly reign, but he seeks to save them from their chosen fate of eternal death nonetheless. God's plan for this is centered on the sending of his beloved Son, Jesus, to be a sacrifice for sin and to call people to lives of love and holiness. Rather than crushing ungrateful humanity like a bug, God seeks to rescue it from its self-created pit of rebellious sin. Last week's lesson addressed the world's hatred of Christ's disciples, which should be an understandable state of affairs given the world's hostility toward God himself. But God's victory (and ours) in this great cosmic battle is assured.
(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Romantic relationships can be sabotaged by fear. What begins as an exploratory friendship may blossom into a committed relationship, but then one or both persons in that relationship may become wary. Perhaps there has been a crushing betrayal in a past relationship. Perhaps there are clues to personality quirks that seem undesirable. Perhaps there is a natural reticence, with an unwillingness to disclose oneself to the other. What if there could be relationships without reserve, without protective tactics, without fear? What if there could be a giving of oneself without holding anything back, a fearless love? Today's lesson features the memorable line "perfect love drives out fear." As we analyze this truth, we understand why our relationships are imperfect: we fear. If we were to love without limits, there would be no fear. If we could lay our fears aside, we would have full, rich relationships of love. This might be too much to ask for human relationships, but not for our relationship with God. It is difficult if not impossible to imagine God being afraid of anything, and there was nothing held back in his plan to redeem sinful and rebellious humanity. God sent his Son, his only Son, his beloved Son, into the enemy camp to die in order to save us from certain death, eternal death. It is this God-like, fearless love that we are called to in today's lesson. Are there fearful things in your relationship with God? Are there hidden closets you don't want him to see into? Fear not, he already knows what is in those places! He knows every nook and cranny of your heart. He knows, but he loves you anyway. Your relationship with God will always be stunted if you hold back. Today may be the day when your love for your loving God overwhelms those fears. When that happens, you will begin to overcome the world.
(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

TRUST BY CONFESSING LOVE (1 JOHN 4:13-15)

Confessing love through power of Holy Spirit (13)

Love through the Holy Spirit because God poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5)

Love through the Holy Spirit because one of the fruit of the Spirit is love (Gal 5:22)

Love through the Holy Spirit through His empowering our inner being (Eph 3:16-17)

Love through the Holy Spirit because He is a Spirit of love (2 Tim 1:7)

Confessing of God's love who sent His son (14)

God's love was manifested by giving His Son so that we could have eternal life (John 3:16)

God's love was demonstrated by His allowing His Son to die for us (Rom 5:8)

God's love and kindness was proven through Jesus becoming our Savior (Titus 3:4)

God's love was made known to us by Jesus (John 17:26)

Confessing Jesus' love as being Son of God (15-16)

Salvation comes through confession of Jesus being the Son of God (Rom 10:9-10)

Confessing Jesus as the Son of God signifies being born of God (1 John 5:1)

Confessing Jesus as the Son of God can only be revealed from God (Matt 16:15-17)

Loving and obeying Jesus' teaching is a form of confessing Jesus as the Son of God (John 14:23-24)

TRUST BY HAVING CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S LOVE (1 JOHN 4:16-21)

Confidence in God's indwelling love (16)

God's indwelling love is proven through obedience (1 John 3:23-24)

God's indwelling love comes through faith (Eph 3:17)

God's indwelling love results in eternal life (Jude 1:21)

God's indwelling love brings spiritual life to the human body (Rom 8:11)

God's indwelling love is provided through the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 1:13-14)

Confidence in God's love because of no fear (17-19)

No fear because through the Holy Spirit we have been freed from slavery of fear (Rom 8:15)

No fear because God is my helper (Heb 13:6)

No fear because God is my refuge and strength (Ps 46:1-3)

No fear of man because man cannot destroy the soul (Matt 10:28-31)

No fear because our trust is in God (Heb 2:13-16)

Confidence in God's love by loving our brothers (20-21)

Loving our brothers is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-31)

Loving our brothers comes from a pure heart, sincere faith and good conscience (1 Tim 1:5)

Loving our brothers should be the only debt we should have (Rom 13:8)

Loving our brothers sums up the Law (Matt 7:12)

Love our brothers in everything we do (1 Cor 16:14)

TRUST IN GOD'S WAY TO LOVE (1 JOHN 5:1-3)

Love through a foundation of faith (1)

Foundation of faith because it is through faith we become the loving children of God (John 1:11-13)

Foundation of faith because it is through faith that we know the God of love (1 John 4:7-8)

Foundation of faith because it is through faith we can say Jesus is our loving Lord (Rom 10:6-10)

Foundation of faith because it is through faith that God lives in us to love one another (1 John 4:12-14)

Love through a foundation of obedience (2-3)

Foundation of obedience because it is through obedience that God has promised His faithfulness (Deut 7:9)

Foundation of obedience because it is through obedience that God has a covenant of love with us (Dan 9:4)

Foundation of obedience because it is through obedience that we are part of God's family (Matt 12:46-50)

Foundation of obedience because it is through obedience that proves our love of God (John 14:15)

Foundation of obedience because it is through obedience that we walk in love (2 John 1:6)

TRUST IN THE VICTORY OF GOD'S LOVE (1 JOHN 5:4-5)

Victory through overcoming the world (4)

Overcoming the world by being more than conquerors (Rom 8:37-39)

Overcoming the world through victory over death (1 Cor 15:56-57)

Overcoming the world because God, who is in us, is greater than the one in the world (1 John 4:4)

Overcoming the world so that the second death will not hurt us (Rev 2:11)

Victory through an overcoming Savior (5)

We have an overcoming Savior because Jesus overcame the world (John 16:33)

We have an overcoming Savior because Jesus has driven out the prince of this world (John 12:31-32)

We have an overcoming Savior because Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven (John 14:1-3)

We have an overcoming Savior because Satan is under the feet of Jesus (1 Cor 15:26-27)

We have an overcoming Savior because Jesus disarmed powers and authorities through the cross (Col 2:15)

We have an overcoming Savior because on one can take Jesus' life from Him (John 10:16-18)

We have an overcoming Savior because no one has power over Jesus (John 19:10-11)