



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **Love**
TEXT: **1 John 3:11-20**

Instructions: *Read the above passages each time you come together to study this topic so everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information and develop follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Remember the TV show Love, American Style from the seventies? I recall watching reruns of it on the sly as a kid (it was for-bidden viewing in my house). In the context of that show, "sex" would be the essential definition of love.

How about Love Boat, the 1980s show? Each week, it would end with neatly matched pairs—many of whom had just met in a shipboard romance. In that show, love was often connected to the initial attraction. Love was something that could happen in a week. "Infatuation" would be another way to describe this emotion.

In the nineties, we didn't have "love." We had friends who slept together, dated, broke up, and had children together. The show tells us that love comes and goes, but friendship endures. And now we have Sex in the City. The relationships come and go at the speed of the characters' designer fashions.

Discussion Questions:

1. What causes you to question God's work in the world or your own life? Explain.
2. In Hebrew, this psalm has six stanzas following a five-four- five-line pattern. What is the theme of each section: verses 1-4, 5-8, 9-13, 14-18, 19-21, 22-24?
3. How does David's tone change from stanza to stanza?
4. Which section do you most strongly identify with? Why?
5. What words and images in verses 1-4 reveal David's pleading tone?
6. How has God given David hope throughout his life (vs. 5-8)?
7. What is at the root of David's sense of hopelessness (vs. 9-13, 18)?
8. When have you had similar feelings of hopelessness?

9. What might be at the root of your hopelessness?

10. What are the sources of David's praise in verses 14-24?

11. 10. Praising God shifts David's mood by the end of these verses. How can praising God bring hope to our lives?

12. Even though circumstances may trigger hopelessness, praising God for what he has done gives you confidence. Make an ongoing list of things that bring hope to your life and discuss one of them.