THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS

1 John 3:11–24

Key Verse: 3:16

1. Compare verse 11 with verse 10, 2:7–10 and John 13:33,34. Why is obeying this command so important? What should we learn from Cain’s story? (12) In light of it, why are believers hated? (12b–13) How does loving show that we have eternal life? (14–15) How is hating just like murder, and why is it so serious? (15; Mt5:21–22a)
2. Read verse 16. How did Jesus Christ show us what love is? How is this different from other kinds of love? What does Christ’s example call us to do? (16b) How can we show such love practically? (17) What should characterize our love for one another? (18) How can we grow to live like this?
3. In verses 19–21, what might cause our hearts to condemn us, and how can we overcome this? What gives us confidence before God? (21–22) What can we learn here about effective prayer? What does it mean to “please God”?
4. How did the author sum up God’s commands? (23) What does it mean to “believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ”? Why does this belief need to be expressed in love for others? Why does our love need to be an act of obedience to his command?
5. What does keeping God’s commands show about us? (24) Why is it so important to experience this?