

Community group questions
1 John 4:17-21

Opening question: Share some fears you have (for example, "I have a fear of needles and a fear of heights").

Scripture study

- Read the verses leading up to verse 17 (1 John 4:7-16). How might you summarize verses 7-16 in one or two sentences?
- Read verse 17. "Being made complete" or "made perfect" means God's love is accomplishing what God wants to see happen in our lives (His love is doing its work in us). What then does verse 17 tell us about His love as it relates to the future? How does this speak to our guilt and shame and our past?
- Read 1 John 4:18. What fears have the potential to control our lives? How does God's love drive those fears out (be specific)? Finish this statement: For me to stand secure in God's love means that my fear of...(fill in the blank) can be replaced by knowing that God....(fill in the blank).
- Read 1 John 4:19-21. Make some observations about these three verses. What is the basis for our loving others? One way to define love is "the giving of yourself for the good of others, even those who are against you." Discuss this definition and the implication to our lives. What else have we already seen in John about this love: 2:9-11; 3:16-18; 4:9-10? How can our fears get in the way of loving others?