

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 14, 2021

Theme: The Attributes of God Topic: The Attributes of God: Love and Faithful

Main Text: 1 John 4:7-21; Deuteronomy 7: 1-11

Key verse: 1 John 4: 8. *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: In our quest to know God more through His attributes, we come today, to God's attributes of **love** and **faithful**. 1 John 4:8 declares that one of God's attributes is **love**. The Greek word translated as love in 1 John 4:8 is the word '**Agape**' which is the highest of the four types of love in the Bible, which refers to selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. God is love and He is also "*the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations...*" (Deuteronomy 7:9). Being **faithful** is to be loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, resolute, firm, and unswerving in adherence to a person or thing or to the oath or promise by which a tie was contracted.

1. (a) In what way is 'God loves' different from 'God is love'? (b) What does the statement, 'God is love' and 'God is faithful' tell you about God?

But God is invisible and so His attribute of love would have remained invisible had He not manifested it. And this is how He manifested it "*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world...*" (1 John 4:9). John 3:16 also says "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" These evidence of God is what helps us appreciate it when Apostle Paul wrote, "*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*" (1 Cor 13:4-8).

2. (a) Aside the giving of Himself for the salvation of the world, what other evidence of God's attributes of love and faithful do you see? E.g., Matthew 5:45; 1 John 3:1; 4:8a, 10. (b) With so much evidence of God's love in the world, why are some people still finding it difficult to believe when you tell them that God loves them? (c) How will you respond to those who ask, 'if God is love', why is there so much suffering in the world today (including Christian suffering)?

Among God's many revealed attributes, His attributes of love and faithful are some of the few attributes which He expressly requires a response from those who know Him. "*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also*" (1 John 4:11,21) "*Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments... Therefore, you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.*" (Deuteronomy 7:9-11). Jesus set for us an example in love and gives us the command to follow in His footsteps (John 13:34-35). But we cannot manifest these attributes of God without first being born of God.

3. (a) In what ways does God expects us to manifest His love and faithful attributes? E.g., Deuteronomy 7:3; Matthew 5:43-48; 1 John 3:16-18; (b) Why is it important for believers to manifest these attributes of God? See John 13:35 (c) To what extent are we in VFC manifesting these attributes of God? In which areas do we need to improve? Give examples to support your answers.

Prayer: Father God, amid all the challenges in our world today, may we trust in Your attributes of love and faithful to love those around us, starting from our fellow believers. In Jesus Name, Amen.