

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Memory Work:**

“We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.” (NIV) 1 John 4:19-20

**Aim Questions:**

1. What test were believers to give so called Christian teachers?
2. What were the people called who didn't believe that Jesus came in the flesh?
3. What are Christians suppose to do when listening to people who speak about God?
4. What was the greatest act of love shown to us?
5. How do we show that we are God's children?



**Hook:**



**Personal Sharing Time (Activity).** As part of last week's TOOK time activities the students were asked to bring an item to give away. This might have been a bag of candy for the Harvest Festival, some canned goods for the Food Bank, a coat for Coats for Kids, or something for the Salvation Army. Talk about how sharing what we have with others in need shows the heart of God to others.

Review 1 John 3:16-20. This morning we will hear more about showing God's love toward others, and how we can see that as fruit in our own lives.



**True or False? (Activity).** Read the following statements regarding what the false teachers taught in the book of 1 John. Once you've read the statement, ask the children to go stand at either the "true" area or the "false" area. (You may want to tape a large "T" and "F" on the floor.)

- Jesus Christ, because He was the Son of God, was never a human. (F)
- Jesus Christ looked as if He was a human, but was only a spirit. (F)
- Jesus Christ was both 100% God and 100% man. (T)
- A true Christian can do anything they want to do, even if it means sinning all the time. (F)
- A true Christian will never sin anymore. (F)
- A true Christian will want to please God and will seek to avoid sin at all costs. (T)
- The Bible has a secret knowledge that only teachers can understand. (F)
- Only those who are teachers can really understand the Bible. (F)


Any Christian can understand the Bible if he studies it with the help of God's Spirit. (T)





**Physical Balderdash (Activity).** Bring in several odd-looking objects from home. It must be

something that the children would not be able to identify easily. Tell them that you're going to play a game to see who can guess what the odd-looking objects are. Ask three teachers to help you identify the object. One teacher will describe it correctly, while the other two will give a fanciful description of what they think it is. Once all three teachers have given what they think it is, ask the class to vote on who they believe is correct.

**Debrief:** Just as these three teachers tried to "guess" at what these objects are, there are many people who "think" they know who Jesus Christ is but end up guessing about Him. But there is only one truth about Jesus, not many. And the only way in which we know what the truth about God is is through the Bible alone. The false teachers in the book of 1 John were making up all kinds of stories about Jesus, just like the two teachers did about these objects. So who's right? The only way we'll ever know is by looking at God's Word, the Bible.

 **Good Fruit vs. Bad Fruit (Activity).** Cut and color two trees from sheets of butcher paper and place them on the wall of the classroom. Then prepare cut-outs of differing kinds of fruit. On the fruit, write actions and words that clearly belong on either the good tree or the bad tree. Then have the kids pick the fruit off of tables or the floor and discern where the fruit belongs. With older children, you can allow the kids themselves to write on the different fruits and then place the fruit on either tree. (The purpose of this activity is to develop and practice the skills of discernment and testing.)

 **What's Love Got To Do With It? (Discussion).** On the wall, place a white sheet of butcher paper with two columns; The World's Love and God's Love. Then have students describe what the world's concept of love looks like. Use adjectives, examples, and descriptions to develop the concept of the world's idea of love. Then ask students to describe God's love. You may wish to teach the students about the different words for love in the Greek; **1) phileo** – brotherly love, **2) eros** – passionate/emotional love, **3) storge** – familial love, **4) agape** – sacrificial love/choice. Then explain that the word John used to describe God's love was agape. Discuss how agape contrasts with the world's idea of love. Ask them which is better, and why.

 **The Gong Show (Activity).** Have a panel of three students sitting at a table. Three teachers or helpers will be the contestants. One of the panel members (a student) will stand next to a gong (set of symbols) and wait for one of the contestants (a teachers) to say something false about Christ. Each panel member will get a turn at the gong. Each teacher will get a turn to speak about God. Have one teacher of the three only speak truth. Have the other two have a lot of true things and a couple of false things. Help the students be discerning about the truth.



## Book:

### Presentation Ideas –

#### **Bible Adventure –**

When you were little, your parents may have given you repeated warnings about something. Let's use a hot stove for an example. Perhaps you were attracted to the red glow or the blue flames. If you didn't listen to your mom or dad, you probably went through the awful pain of being burned. Perhaps you did listen and learned that fire or heat was something to be avoided if you didn't want to get hurt. The point is, because your parents love you, they warned you of the danger.

In the book of First John, the apostle John warned the new believers in the church about some false teaching that could burn them spiritually. Just as your parents warned you that the stove or heater was dangerous, John used his letter to warn his friends and teach them what to beware of. John wanted his friends to know what a true believer in Jesus Christ looks and acts like. He wanted them to know that God is the source of righteousness, and Satan is the source of sin. He wanted them to understand that a person who belongs to Christ will have the same nature as Christ, and the way he speaks and acts will prove it.

The false teachers in the new church impressed many with their claim to have special knowledge from God. They claimed to be closer to God because they had this knowledge. But John was not impressed. He wanted these teachers to be put to the test. If they were teaching by the Holy Spirit's power, John said, they would always say that "Jesus Christ has come in the flesh." Remember, the false teachers were saying that Jesus was not flesh and blood because they believed that the flesh was evil. But Jesus was both fully God and fully man. John and the apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ in both of these roles. Jesus gave them the assignment of sharing this and other truths about Himself, but the false teachers would not listen. They failed the second test of someone claiming to belong to God--a true believer would listen to and agree with the apostles' teaching. The apostles' message came from God, and those who came with a different story and slapped God's name on it were called antichrists, because they opposed the truth of the gospel.

John's friends knew that if the false teachers' message did not come from God, it came from the devil. John tells them not to be fearful because the teachers did not have any special powers. Listen to his words in 1 John 4:4: "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." The false teachers would keep spreading their lies, and because man is sinful, many would listen to them. The believers were not to be surprised at this, because the false teachers were part of the world, therefore the world would listen to them. But the true believers could stand firm because they had two powerful weapons--the truth of the Word of God given by the apostles, and the Holy Spirit to teach them. We have the same weapons today. Do you want to know if what someone says is true? Just because they say their message is from God doesn't mean it is. Give them these same tests. If they claim to be teaching God's truth, they must say and agree with what the Bible says. If they don't, they're not sharing God's truth.

After sharing this example of what a true Christian should NOT be like, John again turns his attention to telling his friends what one SHOULD look like. The stamp of the true Christian is love. There are several reasons for this. First, God Himself is love. Anyone who is born of God, who is truly His child, will reflect that character. If a teacher who claimed to have special knowledge did not love, then he did not resemble the One who is love. Second, God performed the ultimate act of love in sending His only Son to die in the place of sinful man. Our response to that kind of love is to love God back—"We love Him because He first loved us." (v.19) If God loves us that much, we also ought to love one another. Third, the believer's love shows Christ to an unbelieving world. Since God is invisible, the love a believer shows in the midst of an evil world can make God real to that world. Love is the evidence that a person is a true believer, leaning on and depending on God. Evidently the false teachers fell far short of showing love to others. If they truly belonged to Christ, love would have been seen in their lives.

First John tells us a lot about what true love is. John writes, "God is love." That love includes everything God is and does--His holiness and His justice. We are to show love in the same way if we belong to Him, and not get sucked into the world's view of love, which is to accept anything and everything, with no regard for truth. Real love is more than a feeling. Real love stands up for what is right. This is one more good reason to be very familiar with the truth of God's Word. It's in the pages of Scripture that we learn what God is like and what His love is like.

Real love also can be costly. It costs us more than our words when we say, "I love God." It costs us effort--the effort of leaning on God for the power to love because we are unable to do it on our own. It costs us because we have to give up wanting things our own way if we're going to be truly loving. Jesus Christ gave His life to show how much He loves us. He is our example--we can lay down our lives for others by putting others before ourselves. The real test of our love for God is how we treat others. Is your love for others evident in your home? How do you treat other Christians when you gather with them? Do you treat every single one as a brother and friend? John wrote it this way: "For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen" (v. 20). John goes on to say, "And He (God) has given this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." (v. 21). It's not optional. We can't say we love God and fail to love those He has created and cares for.



**Look:**

- Birth Stories (*Discussion*)**. Allow the students to tell what they know about when they were born. Were they born in a hospital or at home? Where? What time of day? Who was there when they were born? What is their earliest memory? Did they have any hair? Who do they look the most like--mom or dad? Give each student a chance to tell about their physical birth. Then switch to talking about spiritual birth. Read John 3:7, 1 Peter 1:23, and then 1 John 4:7. We all must be born again. There is another birth--a spiritual birth--a rebirth where we become a child of God. We are giving up everything within our former life, and now have a new life in Christ.
  - The Key to True Love (*Craft*)**. The key to really loving like God loves is salvation. Without salvation we don't have the power of the Holy Spirit that gives us the strength to love like God. When God abides in us His love is made complete in us. Cut out a heart shape from a piece of red construction paper. Glue the key from **1JN04.GF1 Pg. 1** onto a piece of yellow construction paper. Attach one end of a short string to the key and the other end to the top of the heart. Write "salvation" on the key. Cut out the verse, found on **1JN04.GF1 Pg. 2**, and paste it on the heart.
  - The Self-Test (*Worksheet*)**. This worksheet, **1JN04.GF2**, asks the older children some very practical questions regarding their obedience to the Lord. The answers then have to be looked up by each child in their Bible. Teachers may need to help the children look up these verses to save time.
  - Love Test (*Memory Verse Worksheet*)**. Use this worksheet to help your students learn this weeks memory verse, **1JN04.GF3**
  - The Good and The Bad Soil (*Worksheet*)**. Use **1JN04.GF4** to illustrate that kind of fruit produced by grape vines depends upon what type of soil the roots of the plant take nourishment from. Bad soil produces bad vines and fruit. In a similar way a person's life reflects what this life is rooted in. Those abiding in Christ will produce good fruit (Gal. 5:22-23) and those who are not abiding in Christ will produce bad fruit (Gal. 5:19-21). Also see Matt. 7:15-20 and John15:1-11.
  - Sufficient Love (*Demonstration/Discussion*)**. Using a pitcher, cup and bowl, you will demonstrate God's love. Begin by showing that the cup is empty. Explain that no matter what the cup does, it remains empty. It cannot in any way choose to fill itself. Then, take the pitcher full of water, and identify the pitcher as God's love, always full and complete. Then pour the water slowly into the cup and fill it until it overflows. Explain that God chose to give us His love (agape) and fill us up. We cannot do anything to fill ourselves. In fact, we didn't even ask God to fill us up. While we were yet sinners, God chose to fill us up. Then have a child take the full cup, pour it into another child's cup, and then get a refill. Explain how we can share God's love and still be full. Emphasize the fact that God chose to give us His love and to fill us up.
  - Passage Review Questions (*Worksheet*)**. This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1JN04.GF5**.
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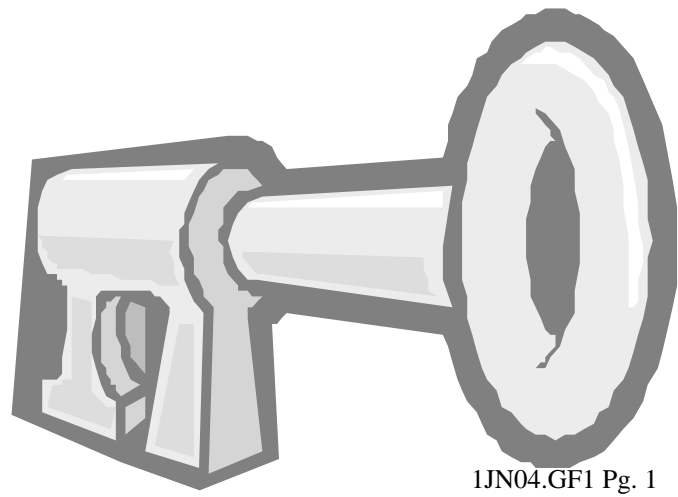
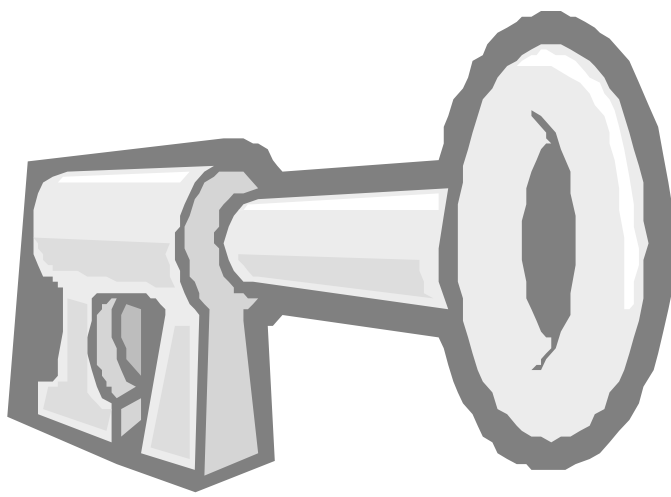
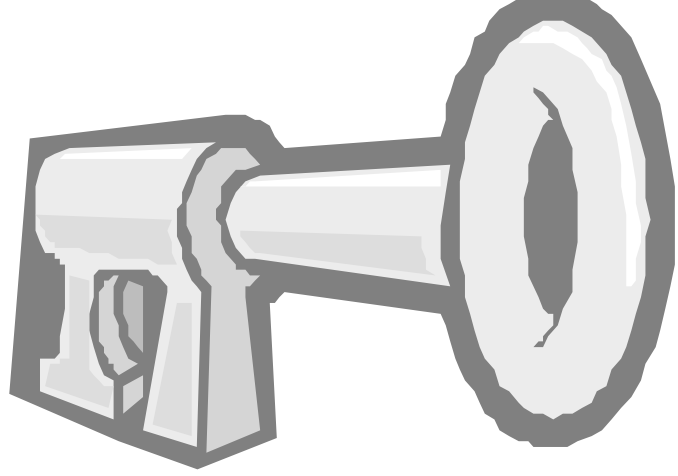
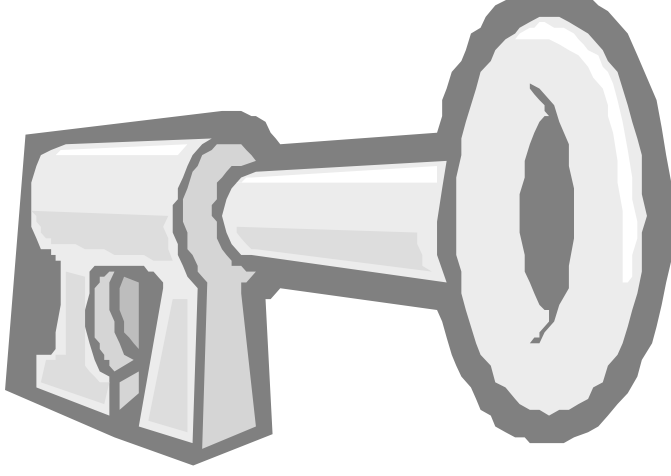
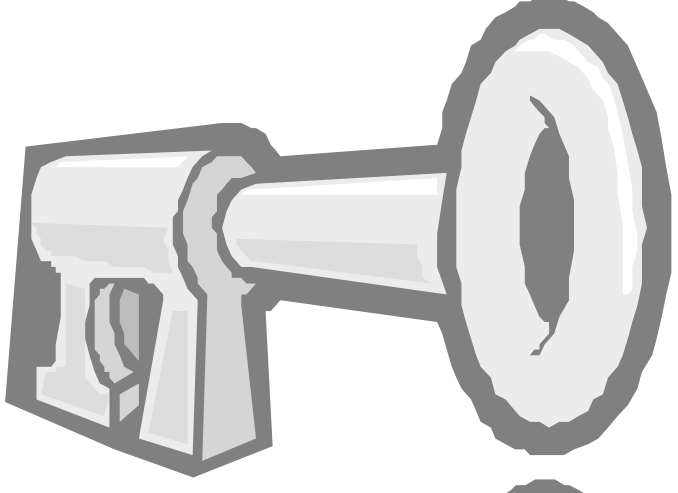
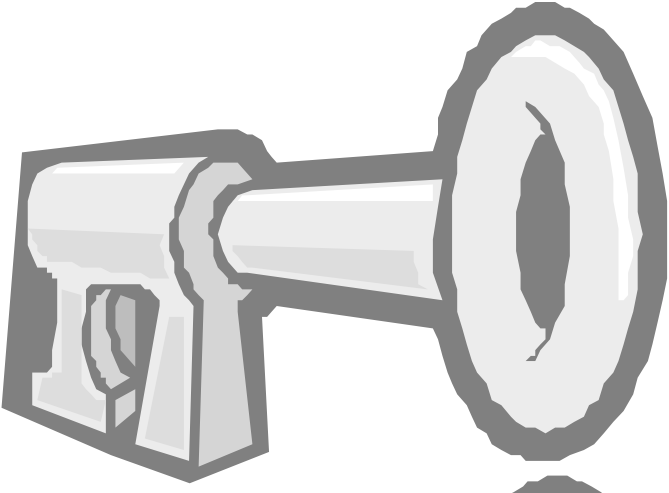
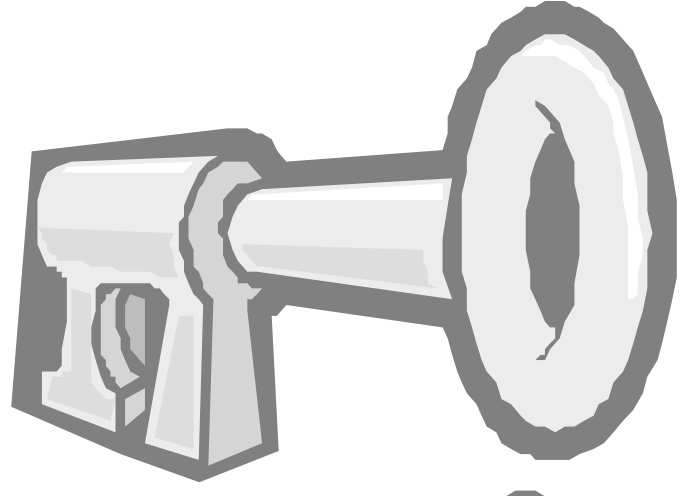
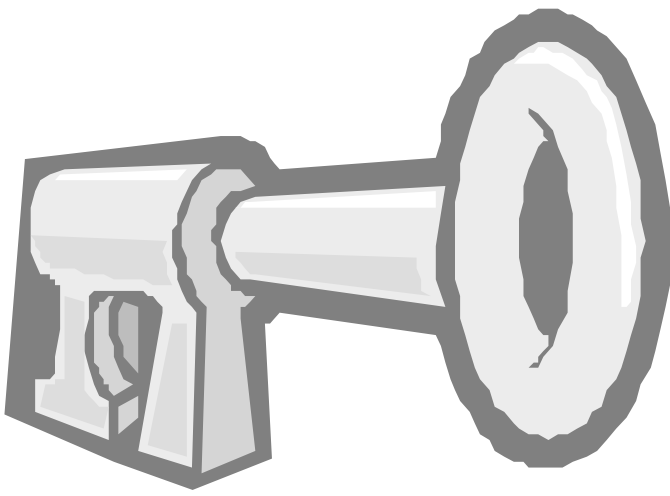
**Took:**

- Take-Home Test, "Self-Test" (*Worksheet*)**. If **1JN04GF2** was not used as a Look, you may use it here as a Took for the children to work through with their parents. Give them an incentive to complete the worksheet and to bring it back the following week. The next week's lesson will deal primarily with evaluating whether or not we are truly saved.
- "T.E.S.T.ing, T.E.S.T.ing, 1,2,3" (*Activity*)**. In 1 John 4:1, John calls believers to "test the spirits

to see whether they are from God." Here, the word spirits refers to the spirits of the actual teachers they come in contact with and listen to, as well as their teachings. John then explains how to test, identifying characteristics that point to the Spirit of God and others that point away from God. Using the acronym T.E.S.T. (**T**est **E**verything with **S**cripture and **T**ruth), give the students some situations or issues, as well as verses in the bible that correspond with the situation. Then have them test the situation or issue based upon what the bible has to say. You could do this activity in a large group or divide the kids into small groups and give each small group an issue and corresponding scripture.



**Walking in the light flashlight test (*Memory Verse Incentive*).** Have students say the memory verse for last week and assign the verse for next week. When they memorize all the verses they will earn a neon flashlight.



**Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.  
1 John 4:7-8**

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1 John 4:7-8**



# Take Home Test

## "Self-Test"

Instructions: Please answer each question as honestly as you can. To find the answers, look up the references in your Bible. All these questions will help you to evaluate whether or not you are really saved.

1. True or False: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (100% God and 100% Man) who came down from heaven to die for my sins. (Write down your answer first, then look up the Biblical answer: 1 John 2:23, 4:2-3)

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2. True or False: I have confessed my sin to the Lord and have chosen to turn from it so that I can live a pleasing life to God. (Write down your answer first, then look up the biblical answer: 1 John 1:8-9)

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3. True or False: I consistently love those around me (i.e., my parents, my siblings, my friends) by demonstrating to them a selfless, sacrificial love in good speech and deeds. (Write down your answer first, then look up the biblical answer: 1 John 2:10-11; 4:7-8)

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4. True or False: My life would not be characterized by a love of the world. This means that I do not consistently think about money or things that money can buy. (Write down your answer first, then look up the Biblical answer: 1 John 2:15-17)

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5. True or False: In my heart, there is a genuine desire to please God and to live a life of righteousness before Him. (Write down your answer first, then look up the Biblical answer: 1 John 3:7-8)

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6. True or False: I believe everything that the Bible says and base my entire life upon the truth of God's Word. I do not believe everything that the world tells me about who Jesus Christ is. (Write down your answer first, then look up the Biblical answer: 1 John 4:1, 6)

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# Love Test

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Use the letter/symbol key below to determine what this memory verse says and write the verse on the lines below..

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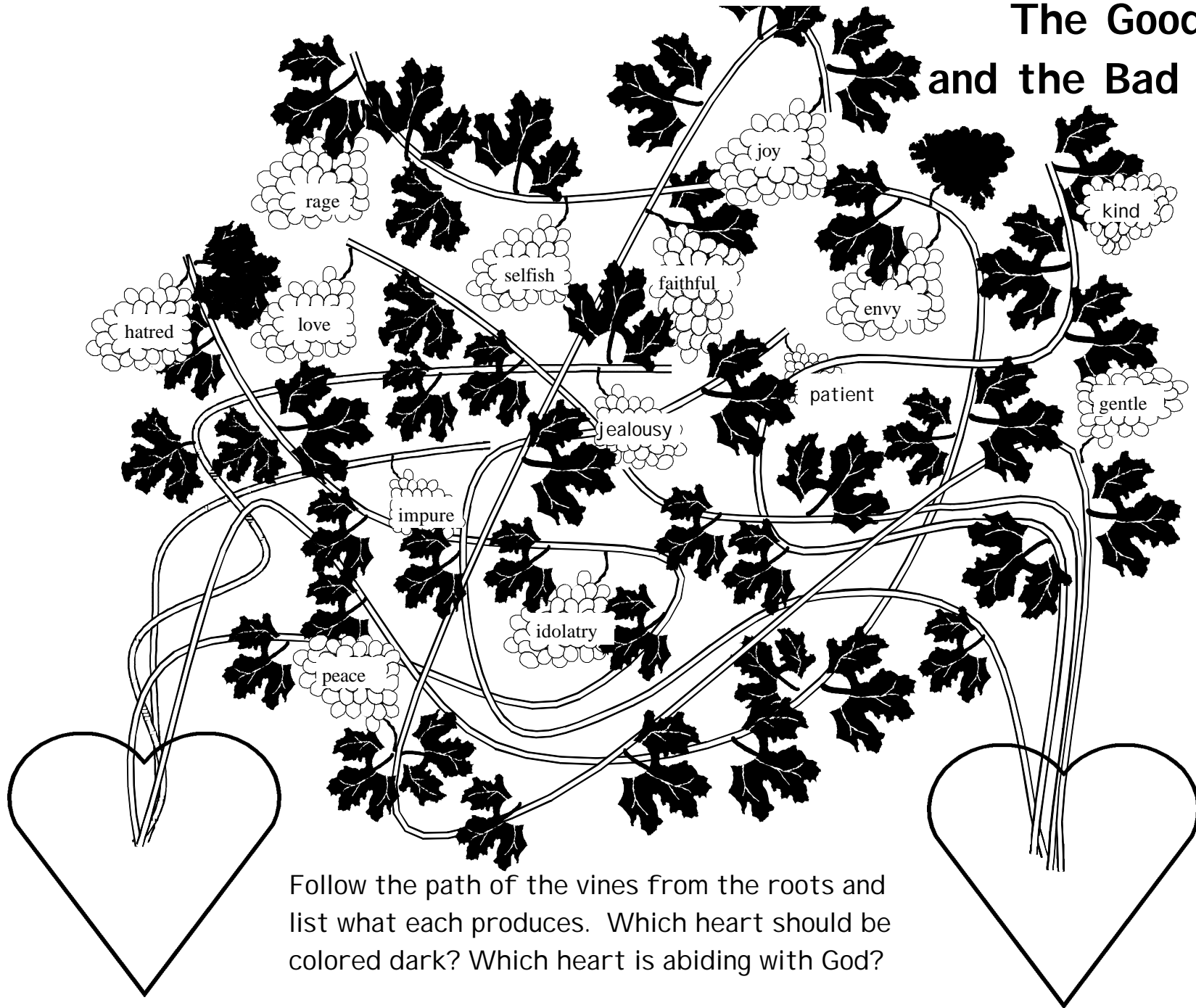
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a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

# The Good and the Bad Soil



Follow the path of the vines from the roots and list what each produces. Which heart should be colored dark? Which heart is abiding with God?

## Passage Review Questions

### 1 John Chapter Four

1. What are we not to believe, what are we to test, and why?  
4:1
2. How can we recognize the Spirit of God? 4:2
3. How about the other spirits? 4:3
4. The one who is in us is greater than whom? 4:4
5. The ones who are from the world speak from the viewpoint of what and why? 4:5
6. Whom are we from, and who listens to us? 4:6
7. Is this how we recognize the Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of falsehood? 4:6b
8. Love comes from whom? 4:7
9. Everyone who loves has been what? 4:7

10. What about those who do not love and why? 4:8
11. How has God shown His love among us? 4:9
12. What is love? 4:10
13. Since God loves us, we also should what? 4:11
14. Has anyone ever seen God? 4:12
15. If we love one another what does God do? 4:12b
16. Why do we know that we live in Him and He in us? 4:13
17. We have seen and testify to what? 4:14
18. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, what happens? 4:15
19. We know and rely on what? 4:16a

20. God is love, so whoever lives in love lives how? 4:16b
21. In this way love is made what among us and why? 4:17
22. There is no what in love? 4:18a
23. What does perfect love do? 4:18b
24. Fear has to do with what, and the one who fears is not made what? 4:18c
25. We love why? 4:19
26. If anyone says "I love God" yet does what, he is a what? 4:20
27. Anyone who does not love his brother, who he has seen, cannot do what and why? 4:20
28. What is God's command? 4:21