

Here is today's scripture passage in language that may be easier to understand.

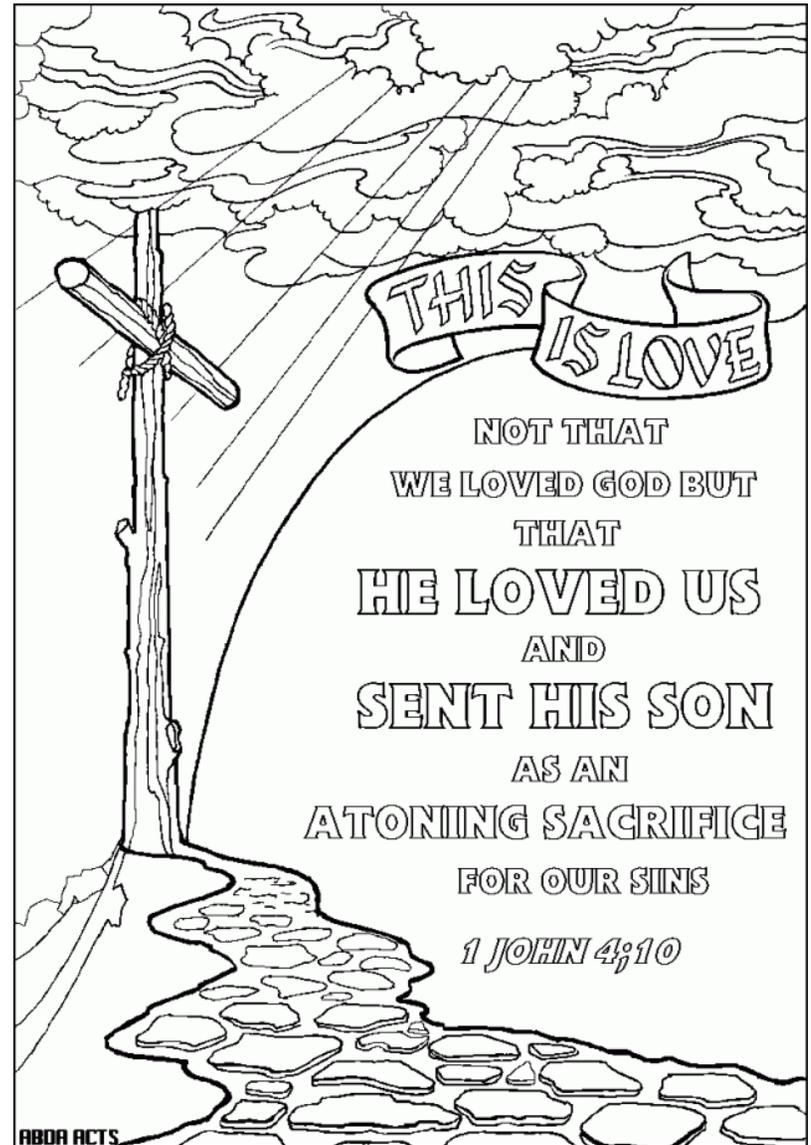
Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. ¹⁰ Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us.

¹³ Here's how we know that we are joined to him and he to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit. ¹⁴ The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. We have seen it and are witnesses to it. ¹⁵ God lives in anyone who agrees that Jesus is the Son of God. This kind of person remains joined to God. ¹⁶ So we know that God loves us. We depend on it. God is love. Anyone who leads a life of love is joined to God. And God is joined to them. ¹⁷ Suppose love is fulfilled among us. Then we can be without fear on the day God judges the world. Love is fulfilled among us when in this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love drives away fear. That's because fear has to do with being punished. The one who fears does not have perfect love.

¹⁹ We love because he loved us first. ²⁰ Suppose someone claims to love God but hates a brother or sister. Then they are a liar. They don't love their brother or sister, whom they have seen. So they can't love God, whom they haven't seen. ²¹ Here is the command God has given us. Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4: 7-21

"Here is what love is. It is not that we have loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins."



Here are some questions to think about as you listen to the sermon.

1. Have you ever wondered where love comes from? Most people in our culture think that love starts inside of person—that our minds or our hearts decide to start to love someone or something. Where does the Bible tell us that love comes from?
2. How did God prove to us that he loves us?
3. If we believe that God loves us, how does that help us to love other people?
4. When we talk about *extended family* here at Oaks Parish, it means loving everyone at our church as if they were members of our own family. What are some things you can do to show the people in your church family that you love them? (When you get home, you can ask your mom or dad to help you think of ideas too.)

