

SMALL GROUP RESOURCE

Big Idea: We should love like God loves.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalm 136
Matthew 5:36-48
Mark 12:28-34
Romans 12
Ephesians 3:14-21
1 John 3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What would you say was your childhood's family motto?
Do you still hold to it?

1 John 3:11-15

What is the root of strife between people?
What are your usual reactions to conflict?

1 John 3:16-18

How should God's love change your reaction to conflict?
Why does John relate love to words, actions, and truth?

1 John 3:19-24

Do you fail to love?
How can we have confidence in spite of our failure to love?
What are the benefits of having a relationship with God?
What are the identifying marks of a relationship with God?

PRAYER FOCUS:

Praise God for His constant love.
Ask God to give you His heart for others.
Ask God to show you when you are displaying hate.
Thank God for the opportunity, resources,
and strength to show His love.

FAMILY RESOURCE

Big Idea: We should love like God loves.

READ 1 JOHN 3:11-12

Read the story of Cain & Abel in Genesis 4:2b-9.
How do you feel if another person does something better than you do?
How can you keep Satan from using the way you feel to hurt you and others?
Make a list of your strengths and weaknesses, and thank God for both lists.

READ 1 JOHN 3:13-15

Who is "the world" and why would it hate you?
How can we tell that we are different from "the world"?
Pick a room and clean it together.
Pretending that the dirt is "hate" and try to get every last bit of it out.

READ 1 JOHN 3:16-18

Have you ever been given a gift that is so big you were able to share it with someone else?
That's what Jesus has done for us, and He wants us to pass our gifts on to others.
Find something to give away.

READ 1 JOHN 3:19-24

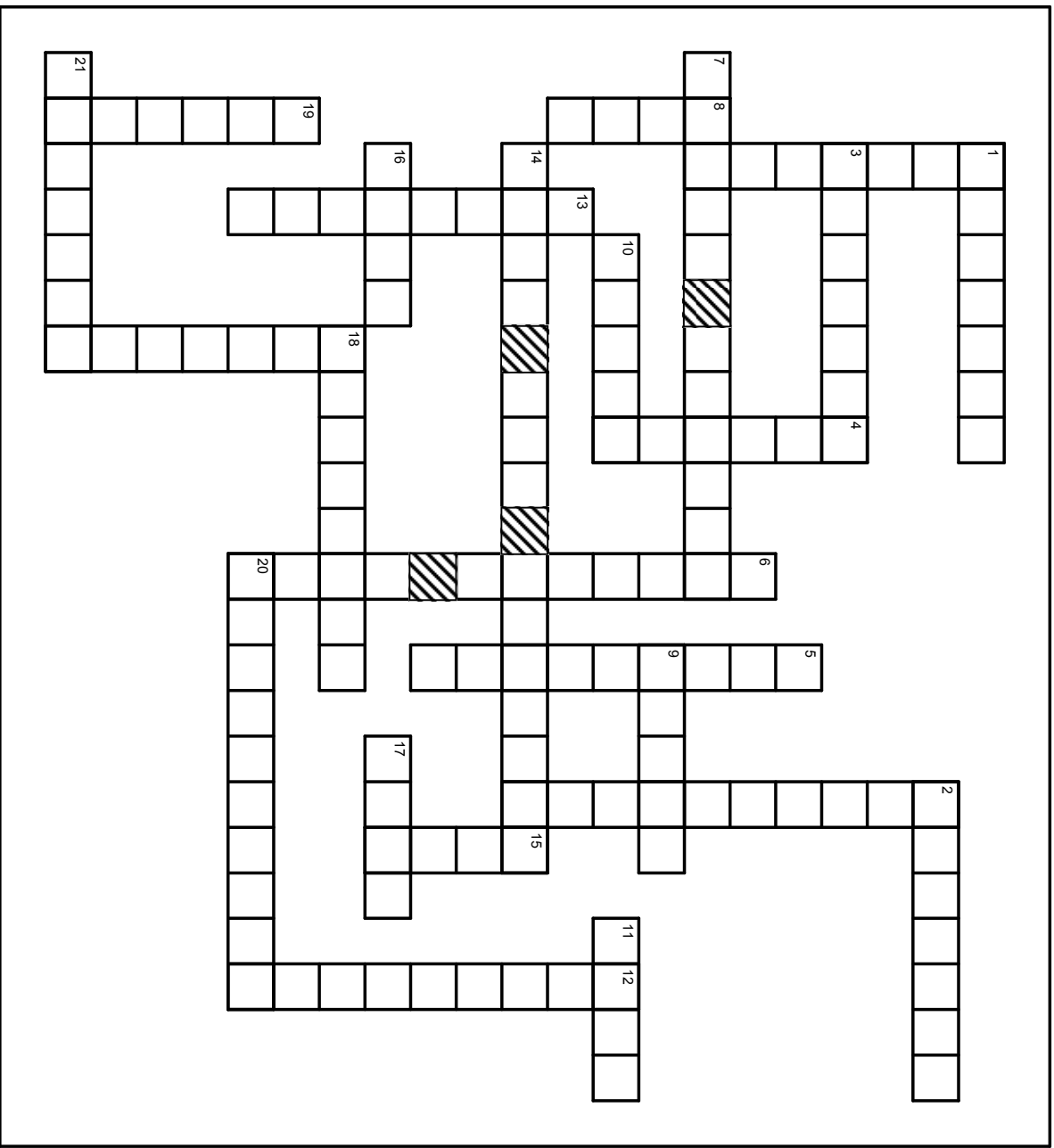
What are the two things that we are commanded to do?
"Hopscotch" down your hall.
When on one foot say "believe in Jesus".
When on two feet say "love others".

MEMORY VERSE:

But if _____, _____,
God's _____ is truly _____ in _____.
Whoever _____ to _____
must _____.
1 John 2:5-6

Believe and Love

All clues are from the NIV version of the Bible.



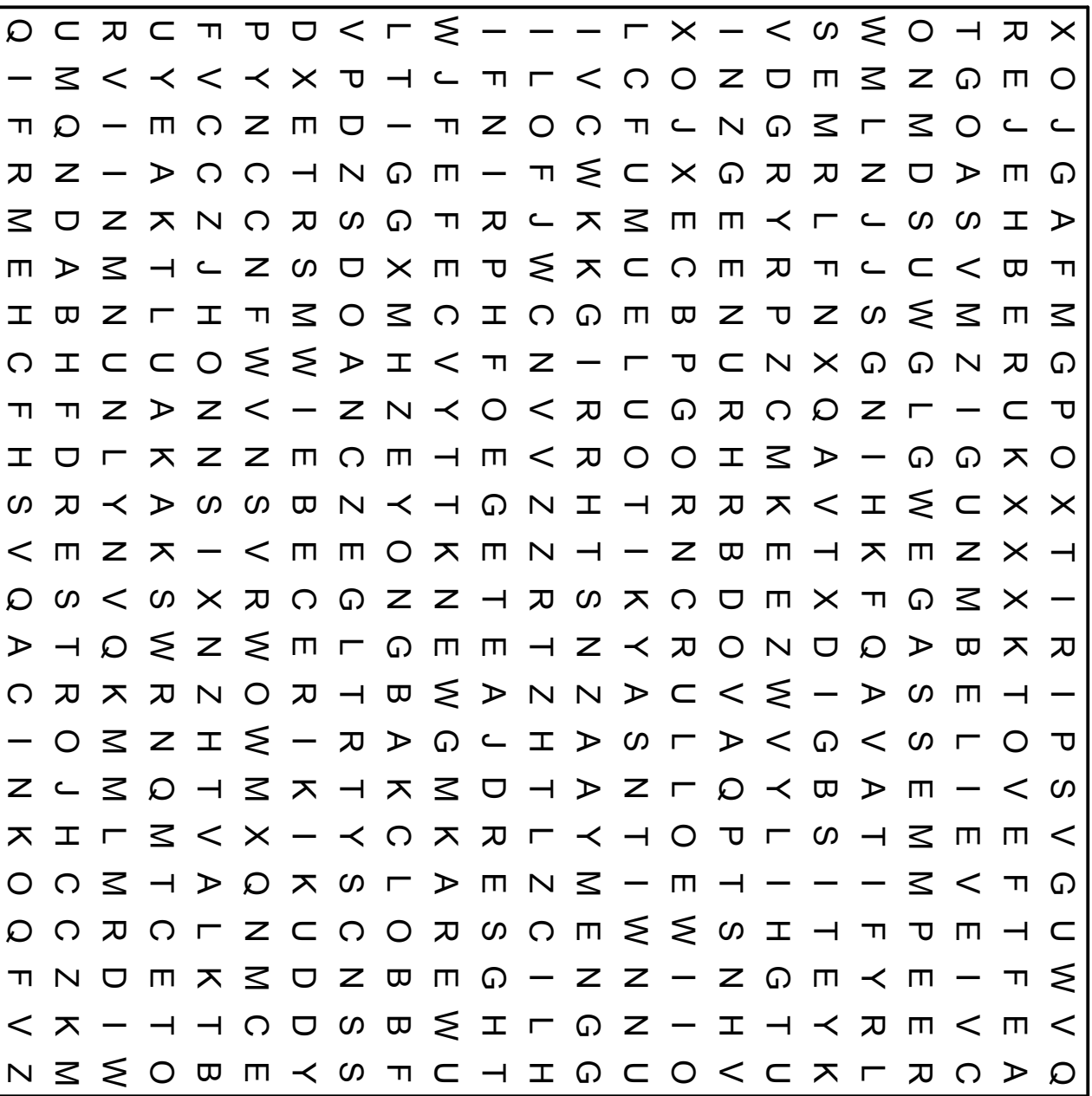
Across

1. get (1 John 3:22)
2. pronounce guilty (1 John 3:20)
3. deeds (1 John 3:18)
7. he showed us God's love (1 John 3:16)
9. dislikes, avoids, hurts (1 John 3:13)
10. should (1 John 3:16)
11. listen to and do (1 John 3:22)
14. God's message (1 John 3:11)
16. he killed his brother (1 John 3:12)
17. active concern (1 John 3:17)
18. physical (1 John 3:17)
20. what God knows (1 John 3:20)
21. accept as truth and trust (1 John 3:23)

Down

1. stays (1 John 3:14)
2. boldness (1 John 3:21)
4. the part of God that lives in us (1 John 3:24)
5. Godly (1 John 3:12)
6. a murderer doesn't have this (1 John 3:15)
8. wicked (1 John 3:12)
12. start (1 John 3:11)
13. orders (1 John 3:24)
15. ease (1 John 3:19)
18. meaningful words (1 John 3:11)
19. this helps us form words (1 John 3:18)

Belive and Love



message
Cain
hates
Jesus Christ
pity
rest
confidence
believe

beginning
evil
remains
ought
tongue
condemn
receive
commands

love one another
righteous
eternal life
material
actions
everything
obey
Spirit

Believe and Love

UHEROIGTS

MLTIAAER

BLIEEVE

NIENGNBIG

EEERICV

GEYIEHRTVN

OEBY

FEOECNNDCI

SGEEAMS

PTYI

LIEV

NDOCNME

SHTAE

CIAN

IMASERN

SRTE

MMDCAONS

ISIPTR

UOTNEG

UOGHT

TASOICN
