

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 JOHN 3:11-18

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

## DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR SMALL GROUPS, FRIEND GROUPS & HOUSEHOLDS:

1. What kind of relationships do you have with your siblings? Do you recognize any of the dynamics on display in Genesis 4, Matthew 5:21-26, Luke 15:11-32, or other sibling rivalries in the Bible?
2. To what extent do you operate with a scarcity mindset? How does this impact you as you navigate relationships or politics? How can God's abundant generosity become more and more real to us? What impact might that have?
3. How do you typically respond when others flourish—especially when you're *not* flourishing, or you think they're less deserving than you? How does the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard speak to this (especially Matthew 20:15)?
4. Do you identify more with the younger brother or the older brother in Luke 15? In what ways?
5. What point is John making in 1 John 3:14? How does that sit with you? How does it speak to your most challenging relationship(s) right now?