

# 2017/2018 Home Visiting Theme

Immanuel United Reformed Church of Jordan



## *The Wondrous Love of the Father*

1 John 3:1-3

These questions seek to reflect upon and apply the teaching of 1 John 3:1-3. Please give them your prayerful consideration in order to prepare for your spiritual conversation with your elders when they come into your home to encourage you in the Lord. The sermon preached September 10, 2017 is available at [ImmanuelURC.com](http://ImmanuelURC.com) on the [Members](#) page.

Read 1 John 2:28 – 3:10, focusing on verses 1 through 3 of chapter 3.

1. “If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he doesn’t understand Christianity very well at all.” (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*: 224). What do you think of having God as your Father?
2. What do you make of the way the text urges and commands us to Behold!? What is so urgent and exciting about the opening exclamation in verse 1? Are you amazed that God loves *you*? Why?
3. When you think about the *manner* of God’s love to us, what are all of the things that come to mind in trying to describe the depth of His love for us?
4. What are the ways that you can speak about appreciating how God *lavishes* His love on us from day to day?
5. How does an appreciation for God the Father’s love for us affect us when He withholds blessing from us, brings us through challenges, etc.? Can you speak of your experience of God’s love in the face of such challenges?
6. Who are you? How do you describe yourself? What is your identity? How does what this passage asserts about our identity ground you and help you in life? Do you ever fear or doubt? How does an understanding of our identity as children make a difference, then?
7. Why does the world not “know” us (“get” or understand us)? What does this feel like in your experience? How does a recognition that they don’t know Him, help us? How should it affect our engagement with the world, and our concern for the world? How well do we do in this regard?
8. What does it mean for our life together as Christians, as church, that *we* are spoken of as His beloved?
9. Do you know where you are headed, eternally? How can you be sure? What do you make of the prospect of seeing Jesus as He is? What will that be like? Do you look forward to it? Why (not)?
10. What can we learn from the way verse 2 speaks of what we *know* and what we don’t know, and of what we *shall* be? How are you encouraged today to know that one day you *shall* be like Him?
11. In what ways is purity difficult for you? What do you do to keep yourself pure from evil? How difficult do you find that? How can we help one another to do better?
12. What if we say we are God’s children but have no interest in purity? How does it help to know that verse 3 is not a command but a promise?
13. Is there anything you need to bring to the attention of the elders in order that we might continue to make progress together in our sense of awe together as His beloved children?