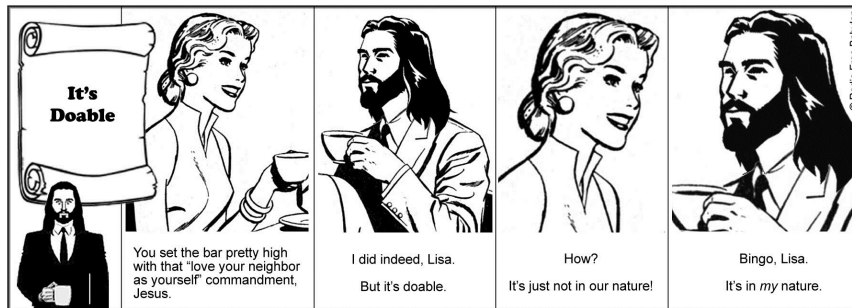


Scripture passage for April 24



April 24, 2016
It's Doable
 1 John 4:7-21



⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 John 4:7-21

1. Take a moment to remember a time that you were able to see God's loving nature on display in someone's life.
2. Read 1 John 4:7-21. Watch for the connections the writer makes between God and love. What do you notice? What is especially significant to you?
3. As Lisa observed, the bar *has* been set pretty high (v.11,12; 19-21). Where in your life are you feeling the need for Jesus to put his loving nature in you so that you can love others well?
4. We talked about the importance of being in solitude (Believe), Christian community (Belong), and the world (Bless). God uses these relationships and the practices in them to shape Jesus' nature in us. Name one way that you can join with and surrender to the Holy Spirit in the loving transformation He wants to do in your life.

