

1 John Knowing God With Assurance

Women's Bible Study
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1 John

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Week One: PREFACE

1 John

Why did you sign up for this Bible study? What do you want out of this? What brings you to the table of God's Word? I hope the answer is that you want to know God. Because that's what studying the Bible is all about. It's about knowing the One who wrote the book. It's a book by him, about him and it's for us. No matter what season we are in, we can know God by beholding him and receiving him in his Word. With the Spirit's help, we are transformed as we see him and love him.

Women in Need of a Meal

Most women today are incredibly busy. Maybe it's a really full calendar or simply busy caring for other people. Busy nights, busy mornings, busy afternoons and crazy busy dinner times. I've got a soft spot for moms of littles, especially! You may be so busy you can't remember to eat! I've been in phases like that. On more than one occasion I'd get to supper time, Tom would get home from work and all of the sudden I'd realize that I'd barely eaten all day. I'd have my lunch plate with two bites taken out of whatever lame sandwich I'd made and I would have missed breakfast all together. If I was lucky I would have had my coffee, but if it was a really full day, my coffee cup would be sitting in the microwave, having been reheated for the fourth time, but somehow I'd never managed a sip.

My husband Tom is a helpful picture of God's love on days like these. I remember him saying to me more than once, after getting home from work and observing my spiraling, low-blood-sugar-state of disarray, "It looks like you need to sit down for a little while, why don't you take a break." Then a few minutes later he'd come over with a plate of food that he'd prepared for me and a drink and just set it in my lap. And I would slowly start to eat. Can you see the Father's love in that incredible kindness?

What if he would have said to me, "Come on, why didn't you eat today? What's wrong with you? How hard is it to just eat some food?? We have whole refrigerator full!" That would have done nothing to meet my actual need which was food and rest. It would have added another burden to my already burdened self, the burden of shame. But he covered me in grace and I was restored with a meal.

That picture of the busy mother who has missed a couple meals may very well be where you are spiritually. Your life is full because you are taking care of the very important and needy gifts (i.e. children or aging parents or job or fill in the blank) the Lord has given you. You are

doing a good thing by caring for them, you are fulfilling the call that he's placed on your life when he gave you your little children or your folks or your work, which is the call to care for them. And what you need right now is to sit down and receive the food God's prepared for you. The food is the Lord Jesus Christ. And your job right now is not to fret that you haven't eaten yet today, but to simply receive what He has for you now. In this moment. Taste and see that he is good. Eat this:

“The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.” (Psalm 145:8-9 ESV)

This Bible study should be a place of receiving. We know God by receiving him through his revealed Word. We receive his Word and we meet him. My hope is that if you're tired and hungry, this will be a place of nourishment.

And don't worry about tomorrow either. Just eat what's put before you. He came to serve, to prepare a table for you. The best thing to do is receive it.

Women in Need of a Table of Fellowship, Not a Meal of Lonely Burden

There may be others of you who come to the table regularly to eat the food of the Word, but the delight of the meal is gone. You hear with guilt and shame because what you've done never feels like enough. You've been sitting at the table alone, force feeding yourself the Word and maybe you're discouraged because you thought the Bible was a string of pearls, going from one beautiful saying to the next, to help you in every situation, but you're finding that a lot of it is confusing and doesn't seem to speak to your daily needs at all.

Sometimes when my family is eating supper around the table, all seven of us, and the meal that I've prepared isn't a favorite with the young ones, the general atmosphere of the table can become a little sour. Our place of nourishment and fellowship becomes a place of unhappiness and drudgery. Often we have to work pretty hard to keep our dinner table a joyful place, especially if the meal that's being served isn't quite to the taste of everyone. How do we do it? By laughing together. By not sweating the small stuff. By not overloading the plates. By encouraging every step in the right direction with rounds of applause and cheering!

And the same is true in Bible study. Not every meal is a flavor we're used to. We may have to learn to appreciate parts of the Scripture that are hard to understand. This is a lot easier when we're in fellowship with others and are able to encourage each other and lighten the load. It's easier when we're gracious with one another when one person hasn't yet acquired the taste for

Leviticus. For those with enthusiasm for some of the harder parts – let it spill out with love and bring others along. We’re in this together. We’re on the same team. We’re learning together and we want to receive all of God’s Word, not just the parts that look good cross-stitched on a pillow. From Genesis to Revelation, all of God’s Word is profitable, even if it isn’t the string of pearls we thought it was. There is breadth and depth that is more than just helpful, it is the food of our life, it is the way to know our God.

Women in Need of Digestion

There are women who’ve pulled their chairs up to the table and ingested every bit of food that they can get their hands on. They’ve eaten and eaten and eaten. And they continue to eat until their eyes start to bulge and the food has lost its flavor and potency in their lives. The satisfaction of checking off the checklist point that says, “Read the Bible 10 times this year” has become a sorry replacement for the satisfaction of “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

Is it possible that the act of consuming the Word has replaced the digestion and nourishment of it? We can know so much and even understand a great deal, but has it found its way into our hands and feet and heart? Has it gone into us, in order to work it’s way out of our fingertips? Does the intake of the Word lead to an output of living and loving that is more like Christ and that is putting the Gospel on display? There is a great danger in knowing the Word, but not really *knowing* the Person of the Word. We can be sure this is possible (knowing without knowing) because the Bible talks about it so often. It’s called Pharisaism. It’s called hypocrisy. If this is you, then slowing down might be in order, certainly repentance is. Letting the word of Christ dwell in you RICHLY, savoring each bite and asking God to restore to you the joy of your salvation.

Paul Tripp says, “Never, never, never let your spiritual literacy define your spiritual maturity. Just because you know a thing does not make you that thing, and just because you can communicate a Biblical principle doesn't mean that you've joyfully submitted yourself to live within its boundaries.”¹ If the rapid and massive intake of the Word has been left to rot in your stomach, I suggest slowing down for a season, while continuing to be in the Word, repenting, seeking the Lord in prayer and asking him for help in right heart motivation.

Women Who’ve Lost Their Appetite

Some of you might be here and you’re not even sure why you’re here. You’re not sure you want to be here. You don’t have an interest in the Word. Maybe you never have, or maybe you

¹ Tripp, Paul. <http://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/all-the-right-answers>

used to, but now, your hunger is gone. Your appetite has completely dried up. You're not thirsty, even though you haven't taken a drink in a very long time. Perhaps you've become cynical about the Word, about the body of Christ and about Christianity. If you're honest, you're hanging on by a thread. You're still going through the motions of faith, but you've started to question whether yours is legit. Doubts are your companion.

It's almost like you've got morning sickness (which everyone knows lasts all day) and just the smell of food sets you off a bit. You know you should eat, but nothing sounds good and you're afraid you're going to throw up if you try something. I hope this study is like the saltine crackers and sprite that gets you eating again. It's no small thing to show up even though your stomach is turning. It's no small thing that you're here. It's a start and it's enough for now. I'm asking you to see this through, to set the cynicism aside and humble yourself before God. And we can ask God to do the heavy lifting, because he's the only one who can, and revive your heart.

If you think I came up with those four women because I observed it in others, you'd be mistaken. The reason I know these four types of women is because I have been each of them at some point in time. And I want to encourage you with God's faithfulness to me in every season. He will see you through to the other side. He will honor your desire to know him better through the study of his word. He will be found by you, if you seek him with all your heart.

Women Enjoying a Feast

The last group I want to address are those of you who are not weighed down by any of the things I just mentioned. Your heart is receiving, you are in fellowship with others as iron sharpens iron and you are being transformed as you behold the Triune God the Bible. Praise God! This is no small thing to be thankful for. I would ask that you be bold in setting this example for others. Be bold in loving them. And perhaps you would be willing to be the means of gently walking alongside those around you, being a cheerleader that points to Christ.

There was a point in time when I was more physically exhausted than I'd ever been. Our son, who's the youngest of 5, has an abnormal brain condition and had trouble sleeping. He was up about every one to two hours for more than the first year of his life. I was a zombie. Add to that the fact that his medical condition has risks of decline and death in early childhood and you could say that I was at the end of my rapidly fraying rope. An older woman named Jan, who sat at my mom's group table during that time, sent a handwritten note to me (so novel, right?!).

The simple card she sent fed me for days. It was filled with Scripture and encouragement. The Lord used her and her example of seeking God and ministering to others in a profound way for me while I was in the midst of a very hard season. Another friend was faithful to email me and she would often include Scripture and what the Lord was teaching her. She would write out prayers for me in her email. These also kept me fed during that very hard year. I pray that many of you would be “Jan” to the women around you who are walking through a tiring, trying place in life.

Method of Study

There are many methods of studying God’s word and many are commendable! This is good news, because we all learn a little differently and that’s OK.

The method used in the homework for this study is mainly inductive. If you’ve done a Precept study, this should be familiar. Inductive study uses the bible as its primary source and looks for key themes, words and phrases.

The aim of our study method is to humbly submit ourselves to the Word by seeking accurate comprehension that moves us to right interpretation and obedient application.

In *Women of the Word*, Jen Wilkin describes the importance of comprehension. We often want to jump to application before doing the work of comprehension. It’s vital that we start with correct comprehension or we’ll miss appropriate interpretation and application. But even correct comprehension is not a sure-fire way to anything good if it isn’t humbly reliant on the Spirit’s help. So that’s what we’ll ask for over and over.

Taking the Broad View and Slowly Zooming In

When we approach a Bible study that is focused on one book of the Bible the first thing we want to do is to put it in the context of the whole Bible. In order to do that, we need to know what the whole Bible is about. We want to know its meta narrative or main storyline.

My favorite summary of the Bible is from Doug Wilson, “Kill the dragon. Get the girl.” It’s pithy, short, and accurate (although, of course, not exhaustive!). We have to keep the basic message of the Bible in our minds as we focus on one book of the Bible. Imagine reading any other book. Chances are you wouldn’t just plop down in one chapter 3/4 the way through and study it. It wouldn’t make sense unless you’d read the whole book. The same is true with Bible study. I’m not saying you have to have read every word of the Bible to study one of the books, but you do need to know it’s overarching message. Reading the whole Bible is a wonderful

privilege that we have. We have the whole word of God (many of God's people over the centuries haven't had it!) and if God has put you at a place in life where you can read through it, cover to cover, do it. You'll be blessed.. and possibly confused.. and helped.. and you'll probably have more questions than you did before you started. The Bible is the good book. It's not an easy book. And we'll need to work hard with the Spirit's help to understand it.

Once we know the message of the whole book, then we can start to put a particular book into context and ask the basic questions. When was it written? Where is this book in redemptive history? Who wrote it? Where? To whom? Why? What was the author's intent?

From there we zoom in further, like looking at a map of the world, then looking at a country, then a state, then focusing on a city, then a neighborhood. Next we go line by line and ask God to help us understand what He's saying in light of the context. We start to ask not just, "What did it mean to them?" but also, "What does this mean for us?"

This will take us far. But there will undoubtedly be questions. We never want to gloss over the difficult paradoxes of the Bible. We want to confidently and humbly come with our questions and trust the Lord will make his truths known. They may taste sour at first. They may be like sandpaper in our minds. It may feel like our arms are being stretched in different directions. But eventually, if we're willing to let verses interpret other verses and books interpret other books, we will start to see harmony emerge. We will start to see that the seeming dissonances are usually the most poignant truths. They have the ability to prepare us for the hardest times of life. Biblical paradoxes are the marrow in the bone. They give us categories for a world that is hard to make sense of without glossing it over.

The Book of 1 John

1 John is a short book, but it's not an easy one. It will set us to flight in its freedom and to the depths in its wisdom. It will hit on some of the most essential doctrines of the Christian life: the incarnation of Christ, the authority of the Apostolic witness, and eternal security, to name a few.

I'm asking God to show us more of himself through it and to strengthen our faith in him.

Small Group Discussion

PREFACE

- 1) Which of the women mentioned earlier do you most identify with? A woman in need of a meal, a woman in need of table fellowship rather than a meal of lonely burden, a woman in need of digestion, a woman who's lost her appetite, or a woman whom others can follow? Share about how you got to be where you are. Be thinking of how you can encourage and love the other women in your group in light of how they answered that question.
- 2) Have you been a legalist regarding devotions? Do you feel misplaced guilt or shame because you aren't spending a certain amount of time in the Word everyday? How can you let the Word of God dwell in you richly, cultivate good habits, yet stay free from legalism and from the temptation to hold others to extra-Biblical standards?
- 3) Try summarizing the message of the Bible in your own words. Have you studied 1 John before? What do you know about it already?
- 4) Pray for each other to be protected from legalism and shame, but delighted with the law of the Lord. Ask God to give you a hunger for his Word and thank him for the privilege we have to know Him through it.

4. Read the book of 1 John through. Write down your first major observations.

DAY TWO

1. Read the book of 1 John through again, in one sitting if possible. Do you notice any themes emerging?

2. Look for purpose statements, such as “I am writing.. so that..” How many are there? Why did John write this book?

3. Write down any questions you have about the message of 1 John? What was confusing?

What was difficult?

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 1:1-10:. With colored pencils or highlighters, mark every reference to God in that passage, including pronouns. With a different color, mark every reference to Jesus, including pronouns.

2. What do we learn about God?

3. About Jesus?

4. About the Holy Spirit?

5. What does “that which was from the beginning” refer to?

DAY FOUR

1. Mark any repeated words or phrases in 1 John 1:1-10. (Ex: proclaim, fellowship, light). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
2. Look up these words in an English dictionary, Greek lexicon or thesaurus:

manifest:

fellowship:

3. In verse 4, John says he writes, “that our joy may be complete.”

Who do you think, “our” refers to?

4. Look up John 16:24 and 2 John 1:12. According to these verses how do we come to have full or complete joy?

DAY FIVE

1. In verse 5, what is “the message” that John is proclaiming? Look up John 8:12. What does this tell you about Jesus?

2. Write down any synonyms from the text for “light” in verses 5-10.

3. Write down any synonyms from the text for “darkness” in verses 5-10.

Small Group Discussion

Week Two: THE MESSAGE MANIFEST

1. Why is it important that John gives an eye witness account? Does it matter to you that he saw, touched, and looked upon Jesus? How can you testify to Jesus manifestation in your life?
2. The basis for our fellowship as believers is the fellowship we already have with the Father because of the blood of His Son. Is this true in your relationships with others in the body of Christ? What takes the place of fellowship based on Jesus? How can we orient our relationships toward Christ-centered fellowship and shared joy?
3. Do you struggle to know if you are “walking in darkness” or “practicing the truth”? How can you know which you are doing? If you are walking in darkness, what is the solution to that and are you willing to do what John says to turn from it? What is keeping you from doing it?
4. Pray and thank God that He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us when we confess our sins.

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 2:1-17. (Ex: sin, commandment, know). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. Do any themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 2:1-17.
2. John uses two terms to address his readers in this passage. What are they and what do they tell you about his feeling towards his readers?

3. Look up these words in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:

advocate:

propitiation:

5. Read 1 John 2:1-2 and the **Gospel of John 14:16-17**. Compare the way Jesus is our Advocate with how the Spirit is our Helper.

6. Look up **Romans 3:24-25**, **Hebrews 2:17**, and **1 John 4:10**. What insights do you gain about the word “propitiation”?

7. Look up John 3:16-21. What does John mean when he references “the world” in this passage? Is it similar to 1 John 2:2?

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 2:1-17.
2. In 1 John 2:3-6, what is the test John gives us to see if we know God?
3. This test is called the test of righteousness or the moral test. Look up the following passages. How do we keep God's commandments? Do we know God through obedience?

Jeremiah 31:34

Romans 6:1-4

4. Explain what 1 John 2:5 means when it says "whoever keeps his word"? How does that relate to saying you abide in him?

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 2:1-17
2. According to the **Gospel of John 13:34**, what is the “new commandment”?
3. Look up the following passages. How is the new commandment the same as the old commandment?

Leviticus 19:18

Deuteronomy 6:5

Matthew 22:34-40

4. Verse nine issues another test. What is the test? How is it different from the first test?

5. Verses 12-14 address different groups of people in the church. Do you think these are literal or representative groups? With which group do you most identify?

6. How do these verses undergird the main purpose statement of the book in 1 John 5:13?

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 2:1-17.

2. Looking back at Day One of Week Two, what did John mean by “the world”? What does he mean now, in 1 John 2:15, by “the world”? Is it the same?

3. According to verse 16, what are the three categories of things “in the world”? What are some examples of each of those categories?

4. With which category are you most prone to struggle? Why?

5. John says in 1 John 2:17 that “whoever does the will of God abides forever.” Look up the following passages and describe God’s will:

John 6:39-40

Isaiah 53:10-12

1 Thessalonians 4:3

1 Thessalonians 5:18

1 Peter 2:15

Ephesians 5:15-20

Galatians 1:4

6. Write down any questions you still have from this week. What is confusing or hard to understand?

7. What has God taught you about Himself from this week's passage that you didn't know before or had forgotten?

Small Group Discussion

Week Three: AN ADVOCATE IN ABIDING

1. John declares in chapter one that, "...if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." Then in chapter 2, John says, "I am writing...so that you may not sin." How does his address of, "My little children," and the parent/child relationship help you understand his desire for you to stop sinning, even though you can't fully stop? Is this your desire as well?
2. How does the Gospel (Jesus as our advocate and propitiation) bring peace to this tension?
3. John gives us the test of love in verses 9 and 10 of chapter 2. Is there a brother or sister in Christ that you are struggling to love? Where can you go to get the love for them that you don't currently have? How can you take steps to love this person?
4. John gives us categories for all that is in the world, "...the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life." What area do you have trouble putting to death? Can you share about a time the Lord helped you put an area of sin to death? Do you believe he is willing to help you again?
5. Pray for one another. Thank God that Jesus is our advocate and propitiation. Ask God to give you a deeper love for you brothers and sisters in Christ. Ask him to help you put to death specific sin, on the basis of Jesus atoning sacrifice.

Week Four: ANTICHRISTS AND THE ANOINTED

1 John 2:18-28

DAY ONE

1. Read 1 John through 2:28, then repeat 2:18-28. Write down your initial observations and questions from 2:18-28.
2. Using colored pencils or markers, mark every reference to God, then mark every reference to Jesus, including pronouns.
3. What did you learn about God?
4. About Jesus?
5. About the Holy Spirit?

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 2:18-28. (Ex: antichrist, truth, abide). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 2:18-28.
2. Look up this word in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:
antichrist:
3. What was your understanding of “antichrist” or what associations did you have with the word “antichrist” before reading 1 John 2:18-28?

4. Look up 2 John 1:7-11. How does this passage and the 1 John passage define “antichrist”?

5. John says in verse 19, “They went out from us...” Who does the “they” refer to? What must that mean about those who went out from them? Were they believers?

6. Have you experienced any similar situations where false teachers gained a footing in a church and had to be dealt with? How did that impact your faith and assurance? What impact do false teachers have on those outside the church?

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 2:18-28.
2. In light of 1 John 2:17, how do you understand John calling his time period, “the last hour” in verse 18?

3. Other synonyms for this phrase, “the last hour” are found elsewhere in Scripture, such as “the last days,” “the last time,” or “the last times.” Look up the verses below. What else do you learn about this time period in which we live?

Hebrews 1:2

Acts 2:17

2 Timothy 3:1

4. Verses 20 and 27 of chapter 2 talk about an “anointing” by the Holy One. What does this anointing enable you to do?

5. Look up the passages below and describe what the anointing looked like and signified in the OT and what it looks like and signifies in the NT.

Exodus 28:41

1 Samuel 16:13

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Luke 4:18, 19 (quoting Isaiah)

6. Look up **Jeremiah 31:33**. Why would John say that believers have no need of a teacher in verse 27? What does he mean by this? How has the Holy Spirit been a reliable teacher in your life?

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 2:18-28.
2. In chapter 2 verse 24, John exhorts you to, “Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you.” What do you think he means by “from the beginning.”

3. Look up this word in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:

abide:

4. John uses the words “abide” or “remain” over 60 times in his writings. Look up the passages below and make note of who is doing the abiding and what the abiding is in.

1 John 2: 24, 27-28

John 8:31

John 15:4-7

John 15:9, 10

John 15:16

2 John 1:9

5. Does abiding feel like comfort or work to you? What is the basis for your abiding? How does the anointing of the Spirit shed light on our abiding?

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 2:18-28.
2. Look up these words in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:

confidence:

shame:

3. Look up these passages and note on what the confidence is based.

Ephesians 3:12

1 Timothy 3:13

Hebrews 10:19-39 (This is a longer passage, but best read in context and sheds light on 1 John 2:28)

4. Can you relate the Hebrews passage to the word “propitiation” in 1 John 2:2?

5. On what is our confidence based in 1 John 2:28?

6. Write down any questions you still have from this week. What is confusing or hard to understand?

7. What has God taught you about Himself from this week's passage that you didn't know before or had forgotten?

Small Group Discussion

Week Four: ANTICHRISTS AND THE ANOINTED

1. Do antichrists exist today? How would you go about identifying them? Has studying 1 John helped in your understanding of the term?
2. What is the evidence of the anointing of the Holy One? How is it internal and how is it external? Describe this reality in your life.
3. Share about a difficult time of life when abiding with the Lord and He with you yielded an unexpected fruitfulness.
4. Abiding in the vine necessarily requires pruning. How can we welcome God's painful pruning without succumbing to doubts that He might wipe us out?
5. When you think on the Lord's second coming, would you use the word "confident" to describe yourself? How is your confidence different from self-confidence?
6. Pray for one another. Thank God for the anointing He's given you and the reliability of the Holy Spirit to enable us to abide in Him and continue in what we learned from the beginning. Ask Him for humble confidence in the complete work of Christ on your behalf.

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 2:29-3:10. (Ex: children, practice, sinning). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 2:29-3:10.
2. Verse 29 of chapter two links God's righteousness to our practice of righteousness. What is this based on?
3. Look up the **Gospel of John 1:12,13** and **3:1-8**.
4. How does the basis of being born of God link to 1 John 2:29-3:3? Describe John's flow of thought.

5. Verses 1-3 of chapter three lay the foundation of God's love and our identity before continuing on about our practices. Spend time pondering the love of God for his children and list the benefits of being born of God described in those verses.

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 2:29-3:10.
2. Look up these words in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:

sin:

lawlessness:

3. Look up the passages below and describe how the word lawless or lawlessness is used:

Matthew 7:23

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

2 Thessalonians 2:3,7,8:

4. In verse 4 of chapter three, John equates practicing sinning with practicing lawlessness.

How do you think the original audience would have differentiated between sinning and lawlessness in light of the verses above?

5. How does verse 5 give comfort to the children of God?

6. Look back at 1 John 1:9 and 2:2. Ponder the glorious truth that Jesus is the propitiation for our sin. Write down your thoughts.

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 2:29-3:10.
2. Describe what John means by “practice” in this passage. Is this the same “practice” that we use to describe practicing the piano? Why or why not? Describe what you think he means by the word.
3. Review 1 John 1:8-10. John has made plain that we all sin. How is making a practice of sinning different than sinning?
4. With what does John contrast the practice of sinning (v. 7)? Describe a person you know personally who practices righteousness.

5. According to verse 8, the devil has been sinning from the beginning. How does making a practice of sinning identify someone with the devil?

6. What sins do you struggle with that persist in your life? Can you be assured of your identity as God's child amidst these sins? On what basis?

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 2:29-3:10.

2. According to 2:29 and 3:9, what are the evidences of being born again?

3. According to 3:8-10, what are the evidences of being a child of the devil?

4. Verse 9 says that, “God’s seed” abides in the one born of God. Look up the following passages and describe how they shed light on “God’s seed” and the out workings of it.

James 1:18

1 Peter 1:22-25

Matthew 7:15-20

5. Look at how John ends chapter 3 verse 10. Is this a non sequitur? How does it connect to the beginning of the chapter?

6. Write down any questions you still have from this week. What is confusing or hard to understand?

7. What has God taught you about Himself from this week's passage that you didn't know before or had forgotten?

Small Group Discussion

Week Five: IDENTITY AND PRACTICE

1. How does the parent-child relationship give insight into being called “children of God”?

How is it helpful to consider your own parents or children as you seek to understand the kind of love God has lavished on you? How is it unhelpful?

2. Read Proverbs 24:16. How does this help us understand what righteousness is? Does it fit with what we’re learning in 1 John?

3. What hope does 1 John 3:2 give us in regard to our indwelling sin?

4. Is there an area(s) of sin in your life that persists despite attempts to kill it? How has God encouraged you to keep on amid the struggle? How is this different than “making a practice of sinning”?

5. Charles Spurgeon said, “I believe we generally find out most of our failings when we have the greatest access to God.” Pray for one another’s hearts to be at peace amid the knowledge of indwelling sin. Pray for renewed energy to put off the old man and put on Christ. Thank God for his lavish love in calling you his children, even now, while imperfect and promising you will be like Christ one day.

Week Six: LOVE AND BELIEVE

1 John 3:11-24

DAY ONE

1. Read 1 John through 3:24, then repeat 3:11-24. Write down your initial observations and questions from 3:11-24.
2. Using colored pencils or markers, mark every reference to God, then mark every reference to Jesus, including pronouns.
3. What did you learn about God?
4. About Jesus?
5. About the Holy Spirit?

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 3:11-24. (Ex: love, heart, brother). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 3:11-24.
2. Read **Genesis 4**. What was Cain's attitude toward God?
3. According to 1 John 3:12 and **Genesis 4**, what is the root cause of Cain's murder of Abel?

4. Look up this word in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus, then define it as John does in our passage:

hate (according to culture):

hate (according to John):

5. Read the Gospel of John 15:18, 19 and 1 John 3:12. Why does the world hate Jesus and his followers?

6. According to 1 John 3:13,14, what are two evidences of being a Christian that involve hate and love?

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 3:11-24.

2. 1 John 3: 15-18 make reference to “brother” or “the brothers.” To whom is John referring?

Explain your reasons.

3. According to 1 John 3:14-16, to what does hate correspond and to what does love correspond?

4. Verse 19 begins, “By this we shall know we are of the truth and reassure our hearts..” What does “by this” refer to? What is the basis for our reassurance?

5. Write your own paraphrase of verses 19-21.

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 3:11-24.
2. Look up the following passages and describe the basis for our asking and receiving.

John 15:7

1 John 5:12-15

3. Look up the **Gospel of John 6:40** to remind yourself of what God's will is. How does God's will relate to our prayers and God's response?

4. Verse 23 of 1 John chapter 3 tells us what God's commandment is. What is it and does it sound familiar? How?

5. Do you think verse 22 a quid pro quo? Why or why not?

6. Is it empowering to you to know that, according to verse 22, you can please God or is it burdensome? According to these passages, how do we please God?

Hebrews 13:16-21

1 Timothy 2:1-3

1 Thessalonians 4:1-4

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 3:11-24.

2. In the last verse of chapter 3, what evidence do we have that God abides in us?

3. Look up the **Gospel of John 16:7-15**. What is the Spirit's role in the life of the believer?

Small Group Discussion

Week Six: LOVE AND BELIEVE

1. In 1 John 3:12 and 13 we're given a foundational principle for how the world operates that those who do evil hate those who do good. This type of hateful envy were the seeds of the first murder. Have you observed this murderous envy in the world or seen it affect you or someone you know? What did it look like? What is its opposite?
2. In what area(s) is your heart is most prone to condemn you? What will move you toward greater confidence before God?
3. What does your prayer life look like? Do you bring your requests to God timidly or cynically? Do you use little tricks to try and make him give you what you want (ex. praying in Jesus' name as a sort of magic ritual)? What kind of asking and receiving do you think characterizes the believer who abides in God and keeps his commandments?
4. How is having the Spirit better than having Jesus present with us (John 16:7-15)? Can you testify to the benefits of the Spirit?
5. Pray especially for one another's hearts to be free from condemnation and confident before God. Thank Him for the amazing gift of the Spirit which helps us know that He abides in us.

Week Seven: TEST THE SPIRITS

1 John 4:1-6

DAY ONE

1. Read 1 John through 4:6, then repeat 4:1-6. Write down your initial observations and questions from 4:1-6.
2. Using colored pencils or markers, mark every reference to God, then mark every reference to Jesus, including pronouns.
3. What did you learn about God?
4. About Jesus?
5. About the Holy Spirit?

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 4:1-6. (Ex: spirit, world, know). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 4:1-6.
2. John describes “spirits” that need to be tested. Look up “spirit” in a dictionary or thesaurus. If you have a concordance or bible lexicon, check it out. Write down what you think the proper definition is in this context.

spirit:

3. Read 1 John 2:18-19. Now reread chapter 4:1. What name does John give to those who “went out from us” in chapter two? What does he call those who have “gone out into the world” in chapter four? How are they similar?

4. Describe how the Israelites distinguished false prophets from true prophets.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

5. According to 1 John 4:2, how do we distinguish whether a spirit is from God or not?

6. According to 1 John 4:3, what is the spirit of antichrist?

7. Look up the passages below and describe the role of the believer in discerning spirits.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

1 Corinthians 12:1-3

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 4:1-6.

2. In 4:2, John says that, “Jesus Christ has come...” Describe the significance of Jesus’ coming.

John 5:43

John 7:28

John 8:42

John 12:46

John 16:28

John 18:37

3. What key phrase is contained in 1 John 4:2 that the proto-gnostics would not be able to affirm?

4. Why is Jesus' humanity essential to the Gospel?

5. What are the implications for denying that Jesus “has come in the flesh”?

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 4:1-6.

2. Who have the believers overcome in 4:4? What is the basis for their overcoming?

3. John shows two opposing “he’s” in verse 4: “he who is in you” and “he who is in the world.” Based on the passages below, who do you think they represent?

John 16:33

John 12:31

4. According 1 John 4:5, what is the result of being from the world?

5. Would these false prophets have considered themselves “from the world”? How does that make them harder to identify?

6. Have you observed that identifying false prophets is an area of strength or weakness in your life? Is there a godly, trustworthy person you could ask to help you evaluate this?

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 4:1-6.
2. To whom is John referring when he says, “we” in 1 John 4:6?
3. Read back through 1 John 1:6-10 and note the use of the word “we.” How is this similar to the use of the word in 4:6?
4. Toward the end of 4:6, John says, “By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” By what?

5. Can you recall a time when it became evident that the person you were talking to either was or was not a Christian based on their response and willingness to listen to what you had to say about Jesus?

6. Write down any questions you still have from this week. What is confusing or hard to understand?

7. What has God taught you about Himself from this week's passage that you didn't know before or had forgotten?

Small Group Discussion

Week Seven: TEST THE SPIRITS

1. 1 Corinthians 12:10 lists, “the ability to distinguish between spirits” as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to some members of Christ’s church. How is this something we all need to be able to do, yet something some will have a particular gifting in?
2. How is it that so many false teachers “confess” Jesus, yet still are false teachers? What does John mean by “confess”? Were the false prophets of John’s day claiming to know Jesus?
3. Before coming to Christ, did you ever bristle at the mention of Jesus’ name or his story? Have you observed this happening when Jesus is spoken of among “the world”?
4. Can you think of any false prophets? How can you be sure that they are? Why is it important to identify them and warn others? Why wouldn’t someone listen to the warning?
5. Pray that we would be rightly testing the spirits. Thank God for Spirit of truth who guides us into all truth and for Christ in us who is greater than he who is in the world. Ask God for boldness in speaking the truth in love about Jesus and about false prophets.

Week Eight: GOD IS LOVE
1 John 4:7-21

DAY ONE

1. Read 1 John through 4:21, then repeat 4:7-21. Write down your initial observations and questions from 4:7-21.
2. Using colored pencils or markers, mark every reference to God, then mark every reference to Jesus, including pronouns.
3. What did you learn about God?
4. About Jesus?
5. About the Holy Spirit?

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 4:7-21. (Ex: love, know, abide). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21.
2. This section talks about love a great deal. Write two definitions for love. In the first definition, use a dictionary or thesaurus, and/or draw from your experience its cultural meaning. In the second definition, define the word as John does in this passage (4:9-10), and in the **Gospel of John 3:16**.

love (in our culture):

love (according to John):

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21.
2. What do we learn about seeing God in the following passages:

Exodus 33:18-23

Gospel of John 1:18

3. 1 John 4:12 says, “no one has ever seen God...” What contrast implied in the second half of the verse?
4. Compare 1 John 3:24 with 1 John 4:12-13. What slight difference do you notice about these two passages?
5. Reread 1 John 1:1-4. To whom is the “we” referring to in 4:14?

6. What test does John re-introduce in verse 15?

7. What objective reality in verse 14 provides a foundation for our knowing and believing the love that God has for us (v. 17)?

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21.
2. Look up the following passages. What gives us confidence for the day of judgment?

Hebrews 10:19-23

Gospel of John 3:36

1 John 4:16-17

3. Try paraphrasing 4:17. How do you understand the second half of the verse as it relates to what's come before it?

4. What is it about perfect (full, mature) love that casts out fear about the coming judgment?

5. How is the fear of the coming judgment different than the fear of the Lord as described in the passages below?

Deuteronomy 10:12

Psalm 19:9

Psalm 25:14

Psalm 33:18-19

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 14:26-27

6. God's love removes our fear of judgment, even while the proper fear (awe, respect) of the Lord works good in our lives. Contrast that proper fear of the Lord with the fear of man in the passages below.

Isaiah 51:7-8

Proverbs 29:25

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21.
2. Look up **Romans 5:8**. Describe the way God loved us first (4:19).
3. What should our love for God look like here and now, according to verse 20?

4. Write down any questions you still have from this week. What is confusing or hard to understand?

5. What has God taught you about Himself from this week's passage that you didn't know before or had forgotten?

Small Group Discussion

Week Eight: GOD IS LOVE

1. Describe your experience of God's love. Does your experience of his love for you change?
On what is it based: is it mainly a subjective internal feeling or an objective reality? How can you apply John's definition of love to your life and experience?
2. John shows us that our motive to love others should be rooted in God's love for us and be the same kind of sacrificial, agape love. What sinful motives might mask themselves as sacrificial love toward others? What is the cure for them?
3. "God is love" is one of the most well-known phrases in the Bible, for believers and unbelievers alike. How is it abused? Has your understanding of it grown in any way?
4. When you think on God's coming judgment, is your response one of confidence or fear or somewhere in between? How do we gain confidence and abate fear? According to Proverbs 14:26-27, the fear of the Lord actually gives us confidence. How does this work?
5. In 1 John 4:14, we're reminded that, "God sent his Son into the world to be the Savior of the world," and in verse 19 we're told that, "we love because he first loved us," so that now we can all say, not based on our feelings or circumstances, but on the action taken by God in sending his Son to be our propitiation, that God does, beyond any shadow of doubt, love us. Pray and thank God for this love. Ask him to help you take action in loving others.

Week Nine: OVERCOMING BY FAITH

1 John 5:1-12

DAY ONE

1. Read 1 John through 5:12, then repeat 5:1-12. Write down your initial observations and questions from 5:1-12.
2. Using colored pencils or markers, mark every reference to God, then mark every reference to Jesus, including pronouns.
3. What did you learn about God?
4. About Jesus?
5. About the Holy Spirit?

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 5:1-12. (Ex: testify/ testimony, overcome). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 5:1-12.
2. Read the last few verses of chapter four and the first few verses of chapter 5. How do the two chapters connect?
3. In 1 John 3:17-18, John emphasizes that our love for God will be shown in how we care for and love other Christians. But now in 5:2-3 we see a reversal of what John has said previously. Look up the following verses and describe how love for God is actually a way to love others.

Romans 13:9

Galatians 5:14

4. Look up the following word in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:

burden or burdensome:

5. Now look up the following passages that use the same word for “burdensome” as John is using. Describe what it means in each passage.

Matthew 23:1-4, 23

Acts 20:29 (fierce is the same word for burdensome)

2 Corinthians 10:10

6. Remind yourself what God’s commandments are in 1 John 3:23. Explain why his commands are gracious and life-giving.

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 5:1-12.
2. 1 John 5:4 starts with the word “for,” which is similar to “because.” Explain why the previous verse gives grounds for verse 4, our overcoming the world.
3. What do you think it means to “overcome the world” and how is our faith the means of doing that?
4. Verse 6 of chapter 5 says that, “This is he who came by water and blood Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood.” Look up the following passage and describe to what water and blood correspond.

Luke 3:21-22

1 John 1:7; 2:2

5. Why is it important that Jesus Christ came by water and blood, not water only? Why would John need to emphasize this?

6. Write down any other thoughts or questions about Jesus coming by the water and the blood.

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 5:1-12.
2. Look up the following words in an English or Greek dictionary or thesaurus:

testify:

testimony:

3. Look up the following passages that underscore the importance of establishing a credible testimony. Describe what is necessary to have a credible case.

Deuteronomy 17:6

Deuteronomy 19:15

Matthew 18:16

2 Corinthians 13:1

Hebrews 10:28-29

4. How are the Spirit, the water, and the blood a testimony of God and not men? How does this give the Apostles' eyewitness accounts and teaching weight and authority?

5. According to 5:11-12, what is the testimony of God that the Spirit, the water, and the blood agree on?

DAY FIVE

1. Read 1 John 5:1-12.
2. According to 5:10, what does the one who believes in the Son of God have?
3. Where does this inward testimony come from? What is it?
4. Read the **Gospel of John 3:31-36**. Why doesn't the world receive the testimony of Jesus?

When we receive the testimony of Jesus, what are we saying about God?
5. According to 1 John 5:10, what are we saying about God when we do not receive his testimony?

6. Write down any questions you still have from this week. What is confusing or hard to understand?

7. What has God taught you about Himself from this week's passage that you didn't know before or had forgotten?

Small Group Discussion

Week Nine: OVERCOMING BY FAITH

1. 1 John 5:3 says that the love of God is that we keep his commandments. Do you find God's commandments an expression of his love for you or do you find the commandments of God burdensome? Explain.
2. What is truly burdensome in the Christian life? How do God's commands help us with this?
3. How does our faith overcome the world? Describe what you think John means by "overcome"? Have you seen evidence of overcoming the world in Christians you know or in yourself? How do you struggle to overcome?
4. Describe the inward testimony of the Spirit in your life. Do you recall when you first believed? How did this inward testimony quicken your faith?
5. How is the testimony of God greater than the testimony of men? How is our believing his testimony a testimony in itself? What does it say to the world?
6. Pray for one another. Ask God to remind you that his commands are an expression of his love and pray for faith to persevere in this world. Thank God for the testimony that he gives us by His Spirit, the water, and the blood.

6. Using colored pencils or marker, mark repeated words and key words in 5:13-21. (Ex: ask/know/sin). Also, make note of synonyms to those repeated or key words.
7. What themes emerge after doing that?

DAY TWO

1. Read 1 John 5:13-21.
2. Who does John say he's writing to in 5:13?
3. 1 John 5:13 is the summary and main point of John's writing. Paraphrase it below.
4. Look back at 1 John 2:28, 3:20-21, and 4: 17 to see the way John mentions confidence previously. On what is our confidence based in verse 14?

5. Look back at **Week 3, Day 5** (page 22) to remind yourself what God's revealed will is. What kind of requests would be in accord with his will?

DAY THREE

1. Read 1 John 5:13-21.
2. According to 1 John 5:16, what should we do if we see a brother committing a sin not leading to death? Why?
3. Verse 16 speaks of "sins that do not lead to death" and "sin that leads to death." Read 1 John 3:4-10. Describe what you think he means by "sins that lead to death" and "sin that does not lead to death."

4. Why wouldn't we pray for those committing the sin that leads to death? Is John prohibiting it?

5. To whom does the "he" in verse 18 of chapter 5 refer? What does "he" do?

DAY FOUR

1. Read 1 John 5:13-21.

2. Verse 18 of chapter 5 refers to "everyone who has been born of God" and also, "he who was born of God," meaning Jesus. What does that make God's people in relation to Jesus?

3. In 5:19, John reminds God's people where they are from, while also reminding them in whose power the world lies. Synthesize verse 18 with verse 19 and describe what it's like to be a believer under Jesus protection in a world under the power of the evil one.

Small Group Discussion
Week Ten: ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

1. How have you previously understood “sin leading to death”? Has this week helped clarify it for you? Do you feel comfortable describing what it means?
2. Do you feel protected by Jesus and untouched by the evil one? Describe a time when you felt the Lord’s protection from sin and the evil one. Have you ever felt left open and unprotected from sin? How did you cope with that and can you look back on that situation now and see God’s faithfulness and help in way you couldn’t see it then?
3. Do you ever feel smug toward unbelievers because of your understanding of what it true? How does John keep us from smugness in 1 John 5:20?
4. If an idol is anything we worship other than the one true God, how might the allurements of idols wreck all that John has been advocating for in this epistle?
5. Pray for one another to be free from sin. Ask God for protection from sin and the evil one and to be kept from idols. Thank him for the free gift of faith and the understanding of truth that he gives through his Son and his Spirit.

Week Eleven: WHAT WE KNOW
1 John Conclusion

DAY ONE

1. Pick a verse or a passage from 1 John to memorize this week.
2. Copy it below.

DAY TWO

1. Review your memory verse(s). Copy it below.
2. Work on filling out the **Three Tests for Assurance** page from the Appendices.

DAY THREE

1. Review your memory verse(s). Copy it below.

2. Work on filling out the **What We Know** pages from the Appendices.

DAY FOUR

1. Review your memory verse(s). Copy it below.

2. Pray through your memory verse. Refer to “**How to Pray Using Scripture**” by Kevin DeYoung in Appendices if helpful.

Small Group Discussion

Week Eleven: WHAT WE KNOW

1. Share your memory verses with each other. You don't have to recite them, simply share the passage that you chose and why.
2. Share with one another the one take away that you wrote down from **Day Five** of this week. Strategize on how you can incorporate this into your life in an ongoing way.
3. What was one verse from the **What We Know** page that had the biggest impact on you?
Why?
4. Has gathering around God's Word through the course of this study helped to fulfill one of John's purposes for writing in 1 John 1, which was fellowship and joy? How and why or why not?
5. Pray for one another that the knowledge gained in this study would fan the flame of our love for God and others. Ask God to do the work of purification and ongoing cleansing in our lives as we seek to do His will and live contrary to the world. Thank him for the assurance he gives us as his children when we obey the command to believe in His Son.

Appendices: TESTS FOR ASSURANCE

1 John

Category	Doctrinal	Moral	Social
What does this test evaluate?			
What characterizes God's children in regard to this test?			
What passages from 1 John describe these tests and characterizations?			

*The word “test” may give the impression that passing the test is the means to being God’s child. John clearly is not saying that (1 John 1:8-10). Rather these tests are more like a litmus test. They are ways to know if you *already* know God (1 John 5:13). Believing in God’s Son, practicing righteousness and loving one another are out workings of a heart that has been profoundly transformed by the Gospel and is depending on Jesus’ perfect sacrifice as the only way to God.

Appendices: WHAT WE KNOW

1 John

Reference	What does John tell us that we know?
1 John 2:3	
1 John 2:5	
1 John 2:18	
1 John 3:1	
1 John 3:2	
1 John 3:14	
1 John 3:16	
1 John 3:19	
1 John 3:24	
1 John 4:6	
1 John 4:13	
1 John 4:16	
1 John 5:2	
1 John 5:15	
1 John 5:18	
1 John 5:19	
1 John 5:20	

Appendices: WHAT WE KNOW

1 John

Write down your personal reflections to God in light of all that we know from 1 John.

Appendices: “HOW TO PRAY USING SCRIPTURE”²

By Kevin DeYoung

“Sometimes it’s the simplest things that make the biggest difference. For many years I’ve used the 3 R’s I learned from Ben Patterson to pray through Scripture. This simple tool has helped me pray the Bible more than any other single strategy. I’ve used in my devotional times and have employed it often in leading others in prayer.

1. Rejoice
2. Repent
3. Request

With every verse in the Bible we can do one (or more likely, all three) of these things. We can rejoice and thank God for his character and blessings. We can repent of our mistakes and sins. We can request new mercies and help.

Right now I just flipped opened my Bible and landed at Psalm 104. Verse 1 says “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty.” How might you pray through this verse? Well, at first blush you might see nothing more to do than praise God. “Dear Lord, you are very great. You are clothed with splendor and majesty. Amen.” But try that again with the 3 R’s.

Rejoice O Lord, you have richly blessed me more than I deserve. What a privilege that I can call you my God. Thank you for making me a little lower than the angels and crowing me with glory and honor too.

² DeYoung, Kevin. <http://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/kevindeyoung/2013/01/04/how-to-pray-using-scripture/>

Repent Forgive me for being blind to your splendor and majesty. Though you are very great, my circumstances and disappointments often feel greater. I'm sorry for being so ungrateful and taking your blessings for granted.

Request Give me eyes to see as you are. Tune my heart to sing your praise. Help me see your glory in the world you've created, in the people around me, and in the face of Christ.

Obviously, some verses lend themselves to prayer more easily than others. The Psalms are particularly prayer-worthy. But with the simple strategy of Rejoice, Repent, Request there shouldn't be a verse in the Bible that can't be used as a prompt to pray.

Appendices: STUDY RESOURCES

1 John

1. precept.org. This is Kay Arthur's inductive study website. It explains inductive study and also shows how to mark up your text with symbols.
2. biblehub.com. This is great free site with access to dozens of translations, including the original Greek. You can see the direct translation/transliteration from the Greek to English, or a lexicon of the NASB, side by side with the Greek, including word meanings. It also has commentaries (including Puritan writer, Matthew Henry's commentary).
3. biblearc.com. This study tool can teach you how to "arc" a passage of Scripture, which is a tool used by Bethlehem College and Seminary students. They have a new tool called "phrasing" that I find helpful and easier to understand than arcing. Phrasing breaks apart the propositions of the passage and subordinates them by indenting so that you can see the flow of the author's thought most clearly.
4. blueletterbible.org. This is another free site, similar to biblehub. This site is cleaner to look at with many of the same tools as biblehub. For some reason I prefer biblehub.
5. biblegateway.com. There are great free audio resources here the entire ESV read by Max McLean, along with other translations.
6. biblestudytools.com. This has various tools and helps for Bible study.
7. Wilkin, Jen. [Women of the Word](#). This is a wonderful book that hits the basics of why we study the Bible and how to study the Bible. I highly recommend it.
8. <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2013/01/04/how-to-pray-using-scripture/>.

1 John ESV³

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life
2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

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5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. 8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

12

I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

13

I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

14

I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,

and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. 20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. 21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. 24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. 27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his

brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so

loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because 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 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 So

we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever

abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so

that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this

world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with

punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 19 We love because he first

loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not

love his brother whom he has seen cannot[a] love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this

commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who

loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the

children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of

God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For

everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has

overcome the world – our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who

believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is he who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three

agree. 9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the

testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of

God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

