



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 1 – 1 John 1:1-2:6 – August 30, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

Helpful Resources for Studying 1 John

- *RightNow Media Study with Tony Evans* – <http://bit.ly/123JohnTonyEvans>
- *The BibleProject Video* – <http://bit.ly/BibleProject1John>
- *John's Letters: Discovering Genuine Christianity* – <http://bit.ly/JohnsLetters>



KNOW:

- Have you ever experienced a time you had good news you just couldn't wait to share with someone? What was that news?
- Share of a dark time where someone shown light into your life.
- We often hear the phrase "Well, I am only human!" as an excuse for our failures. When was the last time that you gave yourself a pass on a certain failure because you thought it was a part of being human?



GROW:

- Read 1 John 1:1-2:6 together as a D-Group. What words or phrases stand out to you?
- How do these passages in 1 John show Jesus not only as Savior, but also as advocate?
- 1 John instructs us not to love the world, but we know in other parts of scripture we are called to love the “world.” What is the difference?
- What does love for the world look like? How can we better identify whether the things we love are of the world or are of God?



SHOW:

- John shares this letter because of his desire to spread the Good News of Jesus and include others in the fellowship of the church. In what ways could we follow his example by sharing what we have “heard, which we have seen with our eyes, and which we looked upon and touched with our hands” in our own faith stories?
- What could it look like to begin to be light to those around you? Are there any relationships that you could plan to impact?
- Brainstorm together ways that your group can have an impact on the world around you. How can you get involved and serve in order to serve and grow the Kingdom of God?
- If God were to grant you repentance and victory over something in your life what would it be?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 2 – 1 John 2:7-14 – September 6, 2020

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KNOW:

- Have you ever had an experience where you engulfed in darkness? So dark that you could not even see where you are going? How did being blinded by darkness make you feel?
- Do you have an old family motto by which you live? Perhaps an old saying that has guided you or your family. What makes an "old commandment" special?
- Most news today is pretty negative. What is a story you've heard recently of someone showing love in a way that it brought light to a dark place?



GROW:

- Read 1 John 2:7-14 as a D-Group. As you listen to it being read, highlight, circle, or underline something that sticks out to you. What question comes to mind as you read. Write it in your Bible or in the notes of your Bible app. Share that question with your D-Group.
- In vs. 9-11, John associates loving our brother with living in the light and hating our brother as being blinded by darkness. Why does he use this analogy? What does it tell us about our identity in Christ?
- The Greek word for “brother” in verse 9 is adelphon, which means, “a brother, member of the same religious community, especially a fellow-Christian.” What is particularly hard about Christians refusing to love one another?
- The phrases of truth Paul writes in verses 12-14 create a picture of intimacy with God. In what ways does a person establish and maintain intimacy with God on a daily basis? Describe the heart attitude of a person who is close to God.



SHOW:

- Verses 12-14 are a rhythm of declaration. Is there one declaration that impacts you more than the others? How do you cling to that truth this week? Is there anything in your life that needs to shift because of this truth?
- Take a few minutes to consider your own life. Where do you need to repent and ask for God’s grace to change your heart and help you love others? Consider sharing that with someone in your D-Group and asking them to pray with you.
- Often Christians find bitterness, resentment, or even hatred in their hearts but it isn’t necessarily expressed outwardly in words or actions. Do you feel this now or have you felt this in the past? What was a good next step for you? In what ways do Christians failing to love one another have a negative impact on the Kingdom of God? What are some ways we can choose to intentionally show love toward our brothers even in the midst of disagreement?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 3 – 1 John 2:15-17 – Sep. 13, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

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KNOW:

- Schools have started back and many people are back at their workplaces now, but things are definitely different. What is the biggest challenge for you or your family in the current circumstances? How are you seeing God's faithfulness through it?
- Where are some beautiful places in the world that you have visited or would love to visit? What is appealing about these places?
- What is something you looked forward to every year as a child? Why? What about now? What is something you are looking forward to right now? How does looking forward to something in the future change your attitude & behavior in the present?



GROW:

- Have someone read **1 John 2:15-17**. What does John mean by "the world" in these verses? How does his use of the word differ from its use in **John 3:16**? What does it mean to love the world?
- Compare John's warning against worldliness in verses **15-17** with what he says about the world elsewhere in the book. Check out verses **2:2; 3:13; 4:4-5; 5:4-5, 19**. What is the meaning of the word "world" in these verses?
- Verse **16** lists three categories of temptation in the world. What are these three categories? Give specific examples for the temptations each of these represent. Why are they such affronts to God?
- Why is loving the things of this world in opposition to loving God, the creator of the world? What are the consequences in our lives if we love the world? Remember, this is not referring to the people of the world, but rather, the sinful desires of the world.



SHOW:

- Read **Matthew 4:1-11**. How did Satan use each of these "worldly" values to tempt Jesus to sin? What does this teach us about the ways he tempts us to sin? Based on Jesus' response to Satan, what is the best way to fight back against these temptations?
- Read **Luke 12:34**. According to Jesus, where we invest reveals what our heart most values. Consider where you are investing your time, energy and resources. In what areas of your life are you tempted to allow the world to compete with your love for God?
- Remember, we are all in this together. This is the time to be open and vulnerable with your D-Group. In what area of your life does love for the world most often compete with love for God? What are some practical ways we can help each other, and our families, reject the sinful desires of this world and love God wholeheartedly?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 4 – Our Comfort Problem – Sep. 20, 2020

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KNOW:

- Think about this past week. What is one thing you saw advertised that made you think, "I've got to have that"? Are there any seasonal pleasures that resonate with you in the autumn months?
- How do you define contentment? In your own experiences, what have you discovered to be the key to contentment? In what circumstances do you most typically struggle to be content? Why?
- Webster defines The American Dream as "a happy way of living that is thought of by many Americans as something that can be achieved by anyone in the U.S. especially by working hard and becoming successful." When did you first learn about The American Dream? How would you define it? Have you found yourself trying to pursue the American Dream?



GROW:

- Have someone read 1 Timothy 6:6-8 & Philippians 4:11-13. What similarities do you see between these two passages of Scripture? How does Paul's view of contentment compare with the modern world's view of contentment?
- When you feel overwhelmed, how do you escape the pressures of the world? Do any of those things keep you from growing closer to Christ? Are there any verses from 1 John that have been an encouragement to you?
- John Calvin famously said, "the heart is a perpetual idol factory," meaning, there are always things that will compete with God for our attention. What competes for your attention with God? How can we guard against these things?
- We often find pleasure in rest. Rest is a good thing. However, sometimes we cross the line and dance in the pleasure of escape. Where is that line for you? How do you know when you have crossed it? How does 1 John 2:15-17 speak to this?



SHOW:

- Are there any spiritual disciplines or practices that could help regularly foster contentment in Jesus versus contentment in the way of the world? Brainstorm as a group. How would they help?
- How does the American Dream differ from what God calls us to as Christ followers? Are there parts of the American Dream that you are pursuing that is hindering your calling as a follower of Christ? What change needs to take place in your life in the way you approach money and material possessions?
- Do you find it difficult to reconcile the struggle between the pleasures of this world and finding true and ultimate pleasure in relationship with Jesus? Be willing to be a little vulnerable and honest about this. Ask your D-Group to speak into this in your life.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 5 – Our Control Problem – Sep. 27, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

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KNOW:

- Describe (without naming names!) some of the most competitive people or moments in your life. Where were you? What were the circumstances? Give an example of a good and bad outcome that resulted from this competitiveness. What is at the heart of this competitiveness?
- What is an area of your life that is very routine and predictable? What happens when something interrupts that routine?
- When is the last time something didn't go according to plan for you? What happened? How did you react?



GROW:

- Read 1 John 2:15-17 to review. Does anything stand out to you in a different way? Last week, we considered how comfort and pleasure can become idols in our lives. This week, we are looking at how the idols of power and control can keep us from being a devoted disciple of Jesus.
- Take a look at John 12:20-26. What does Jesus mean by loving your life and hating your life? How can we look to Jesus as an example of what it means to live a life dying to self?
- Examine Exodus 20:1-4. The first two commands in the ten commandments concern idolatry. Why is it such a challenge to keep God first in our lives when we are commanded to do so? Which idol(s) do you see more prevalent in our society today? Where does the world have the most influence in your life?
- Consider passages Colossians 1:15-20 and Matthew 28:18-20. What do these verses say about who has the power and control of our lives? What is the mission we are given by Jesus? How is not loving the world a critical part of achieving the mission we have been given?



SHOW:

- In what areas of your life do you struggle the most to give up control? What is one step you can take towards surrendering that to Jesus?
- Is God a Plan A or a Plan B practically in the way that you live your life? What do you need to shift or change in order to make Jesus “Lord” over your life and plans?
- Take a moment and pray silently as a group that God would identify any and all idols in your life that are keeping you from experiencing abundant life in Christ.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum Week 6 – Our Pornography Problem October 4, 2020

Special Note to D-Group Leaders:

Because of the subject matter of this week's discussion, we are asking that every D-Group pause their regular rhythm to engage in this discussion about *Our Pornography Problem*. We believe that this dialogue is extremely important for our whole church to engage with. So, whether it is this week or next, please take time as a D-Group to have this discussion.

Understandably the subject matter for this discussion can be a bit awkward. We want to encourage you to step forward with grace and love. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in the midst of your group conversation.

Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Watch this message from teaching pastor, Ben Parkinson, together as a D-Group: <http://bit.ly/DGroupDiscussion>
- Divide into two groups, one of women and one of men, to discuss together. Please do not have this discussion as a full group of men and women.



KNOW:

- What do most people in our culture think about pornography? Your family growing up? Your co-workers? Your friends?
- How has the media and culture influenced our attitudes about pornography?
- What arguments do those who favor pornography use to defend it? How does our culture make it difficult to pursue sexual purity?
- What was the most surprising statistic or statement you heard from Ben or Ted's message on Oct. 4th?
- How old were you, where were you when you were first exposed to pornography?



GROW:

- Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-20.
 - *How should our actions regarding sexual immorality be different from the world? What role does the gospel play in our understanding of biblical sexuality?*
 - *How do we see the truth of the gospel confirmed in v. 18-20? What does it mean that our bodies are not our own?*
 - *Do you agree that sexual sins have a more personal impact than "every other sin"?*
 - *In light of our culture's obsession with sex, what does it look like to "flee sexual immorality" (v. 18)?*
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.
 - *What are God's desires for our sexuality?*
 - *How is the Christian's sexual conduct to be different from that of the non-Christian?*
 - *When a person rejects God's instructions on sexual behavior, what are they rejecting?*
 - *Why do you think we are so tempted to look for life in things other than our relationship with God?*
- Describe our culture's view of sex. How does it differ from a biblical view?
- Pornography is an inferior shortcut. What is God's design for sex and intimacy. How does pornography distort God's design?
- It is easy to fall into a pattern of trying repeatedly to avoid sinful behaviors in order to overcome them. Why isn't willpower enough to win the battle for purity? Read Galatians 5:16, Romans 12:2, and John 8:32. What do you think these verses tell us about how we can be freed from sin?



SHOW:

- How would you respond if a friend or someone from the D-Group came to you to confess sin? What does it mean to respond in a Christ like way? What would you hope to do or say and what would you not want to say? What are some things that would not be helpful to say?
- Spend some time honestly evaluating your beliefs and attitudes toward sexual purity. Pray individually over the area of sexual purity. What is God telling you about this area of your life? Is there something you need to turn from and confess to Him? Pray for the Holy Spirit to remind you of your calling and position as a child of God.
- In Romans 7, Paul describes our relationship with sin as a battle. Are you at war with your sin or are you stuck in slavery to your sin? If Satan has lured you from God's path of purity, acknowledge this to the Lord and accept His forgiveness. Surrender your body and your sexual rights to God. What can you do personally to fight pornography? What hinders you from doing it? Who can help you?
- Confession is the first step to freedom. Read James 5:16. We all struggle with secret sin, whether it is pornography or something different. What do you need to be freed from, and how can you take that first step of confession? If you are not ready to share with your group, what specific action step can you take this week.
- What are some practical ways you can live out your calling to holiness in everyday life? What practical things can you do to avoid the danger of sexual sin?
- Pray together as D-Group. Confess your sin, ask God to guard your hearts, ask God to help your sin be known, and ask God to help you engage with your community instead of seeking isolation.
- If you are married:
 - *If you have wounded your spouse by selfishly protecting your rights and limiting your responsibilities, surrender your rights to God and ask their forgiveness (be specific). Change your goal in marriage from receiving to serving. When would be the right time to do that this week?*
 - *Ask God to reveal His grace to you and to your marriage. What needs to change so that your love and commitment to your spouse will reflect God's love and commitment to you?*
 - *How could you and your spouse help encourage openness and transparency with one another in this area?*
 - *Spend time as a D-Group praying for your spouses.*
- If you have kids/grandkids:
 - *What is the next step that you need to take in order to have age appropriate conversations with your kids?*
 - *Have you talked to your kids about this topic? How can you as a parent de-shame the topic with our kids? How can we make it an ongoing conversation?*
 - *Pray for your kids to be protected. Pray for them to feel comfortable to have these conversations with you. Pray that God would expose their sin so that they won't learn a pattern of secrecy and isolation. Pray that God will guard their hearts and show them His love.*

Potential Next Steps:

- *Meet with a pastor from Fellowship's Care Team*
 - *You are not alone! Ask to meet with a member of our Care Team by emailing Care@fellowshiponline.com.*
- *The Freedom Fight*
 - *Join the Fight Club – www.thefreedomfight.org*
 - *Take the 30 day challenge - <http://bit.ly/FreedomFight30DayChallenge>*
- *Covenant Eyes*
 - *Screen Accountability – www.covenanteyes.com*
- *Great Resources for Talking with Your Kids:*
 - *God Made All of Me – <http://bit.ly/GodMadeAllofMe>*
 - *Good Pictures, Bad Pictures – <http://bit.ly/GoodPictures>*
 - *God's Design for Sex – <http://bit.ly/GodsDesignForSex>*



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 7 – 1 John 2:18-3:10 – Oct. 11, 2020

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KNOW:

- Have you ever had a moment when you realized you'd been taught something the wrong way? A game, song, spelling of a word, etc? Share that experience with the group.
- Some families will tell their kids when they leave the house something like, "Don't forget whose last name you carry," or "Remember how (family last name) act." Was there any behavior you were expected to do or stay away from as a kid? Did you grow up talking about legacy or the family name?
- Often people associate the love of our heavenly father with the love they felt from their earthly father. If you are comfortable, describe your relationship with your earthly Father. Did you have a healthy model of a father's love? In what ways did your earthly father reflect the love of our heavenly father?



GROW:

- Take some time as a D-Group to read the passage out loud. 1 John 2:18-3:10. Circle or highlight a verse or two that stand out to you as you read. Share this with your group.
- Verses 2:18-27 speak directly to avoiding the teaching of false teachers by standing in truth and abiding in Christ. In what ways have you been (or might you be) influenced by false teachers? Are there any factors that could make this teaching appealing to you?
- According to verses 2:28-3:10, what promises come from being a child of God? What access do we have to God the Father because we are a child of God? Which promise encourages you the most during this season?
- What does the writer mean by making a distinction between “children of God” and “children of the devil”? As one who has been born of God, what are some ways you can see the family trait of righteousness developing in your life?



SHOW:

- Today’s passage repeats the word “abide” several times. What does it mean to abide in Christ? What can you do this week to abide in Christ?
- When we think of false teachers, we often think of a person. In what ways can entertainment, culture, or shopping trends also act as false teachers? How have these affected you?
- What are some things that you need to change in your life to better reflect that you truly are born of God?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 8 – 1 John 3:11-24 – Oct. 18, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

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KNOW:

- Share a story about your most awkward or funny first date?
- In July of 1967, the Beatles release the song, "All You Need Is Love." When you hear the lyric, "love is all you need," what comes to mind? Do you agree or disagree with this sentiment?
- Have you ever felt upset by someone telling you he/she loves you, but not showing it?
- Has your understanding of love changed over the years? If "yes," in what ways has it changed?



GROW:

- Read John 13:34 & 35. Describe a church known by its active love and one known by its religion. What are the differences between the two churches?
- Is it possible to give the appearance of being a loving person without actually expressing love? Why or why not?
- As Christians, what is our motivation to love others? Is this motivation different than the motivation of a non-Christian?
- Consider 1 John 3:18 - What does it mean to love someone in “deed and truth”? What’s one change you can make in your life to put more love into action?



SHOW:

- In what ways does loving others serve to function as a catalyst for non-Christians to know God's love?
- Have someone read 1 John 3:16-20 aloud, and then together as a group listen to the song: [This is How We Know](#) by Matt Redman. After listening, talk about how your group can practically love in “deed and truth”.
- This is a great opportunity for your group to talk thru and adopt a local missions partner if you haven’t already done so. Check out our local partners here: www.fellowshiponline.com/serve/local
- This week –memorize John 13:34-35 and reflect on what it means for God’s people to be known by their love. Pray for each other to be faithful and obedient to this commandment this week, and that the world would see and know Jesus through our love for one another



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 9 – 1 John 4:1-6 – Oct. 25, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

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KNOW:

- If you dressed up for Halloween or other costume parties as a kid, what was your favorite costume? Why? Extra Credit: How is your dress up game as an adult?
- When you see another believer following a teaching you know to be untrue, have you spoken up or have you felt you could not say anything? Reflect on various approaches you might take or could have taken.
- If you had to make an important life decision tomorrow, who are the three people you would ask for their opinions? Why would you choose those people?



GROW:

- Read 1 John 4:1-6 aloud in your group. What does John mean by “testing the spirits”? According to these verses, how can we discern truth from error?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and 1 John 4:6. How do you discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error?
- 1 John 4:4 is a well-known verse to many people and one that can easily be taken out of context. How does reading this verse in light of this passage encourage you?
- Why is there such a great need for Christians to be discerning? In what ways is this true for us today?



SHOW:

- Are there any messages you need to put to the test that are currently being allowed into your mind and heart as truth? Think about some of the current cultural themes. How are these affecting your view of truth?
- How does a spiritual community like our D-Group strengthen us as believers? How can we help protect one another from false teaching? Pray that God would use each of you, as you depend on Jesus, to help protect and guard the hearts of each other.
- How confident are you in being able to discern the Spirit of truth from the spirit of error? What are some ways you can grow in discernment?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 10 – 1 John 4:7-21 – Nov. 1, 2020

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you have to use all of the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

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KNOW:

- What is the best love song of all time? What is the best romantic movie of all time? Why do these stand out as your favorite? What makes them worthy of being considered the best of all time?
- There can be misconceptions of “real love.” Share about something you remember loving as a child or teenager that seems silly now. How has your definition of love changed now that you're an adult?
- What is your most fond memory of a time when someone showed you great love? Share a story of a particular time when you received love and you did not earn it or deserve it.
- It has been said love is the most powerful force on earth. Why is love considered so powerful?



GROW:

- Today's discussion is all about God's amazing love. Read John 4:7-21 as a D-Group. Are there any verses that stand out to you? Take a moment to highlight, circle, or underline something moves your heart. Discuss with your D-Group which passages impact you and why they impact you.
- According to this passage, how are we given the ability to love? How does the love that flows from who God is differ from the way we use the term "love" in society today? How does the cross of Christ demonstrate the manner in which "God so loved us"?
- How did God demonstrate His love for us? What is our response to his love?
- Although we have experienced the love of God, we might still have difficulty loving others. What might be the root of the problem? How have you seen this to be true?
- Consider John 13:35. As disciples of Jesus we are to be known by what? Why do we struggle so much to love those that don't agree with us, or oppose us, or are different from us? What do these passages have to say about us if we fail to love others well?



SHOW:

- Loving others is not optional; rather, it is commanded (see verse 21). This past week would you say you have been more loving or more judgmental of others. Considering the political decisions of this week, how can you make course corrections or changes this week to reflect more of God's love others?
- Often, we think of showing love by what we say or do. In what ways can you love someone by what you don't say or don't do? What does this passage of scripture teach us about loving those who we do not want to love?
- Everything God does is driven by love. Think about what it would mean if your primary motivation for the things you do each day became love instead of fear or reward. Talk about what changes you would need to make for that to be more of your reality. Read verse 19 again and be reminded as a group that "We love because he first loved us."
- In what ways would you like this passage to strengthen your confidence in God? Do you have any fears that you need to confess and let the love of God secure you?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 11 – 1 John 5:1-12 – Nov. 8, 2020

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KNOW:

- Which one do you think is easiest – believing God, obeying Him, or loving Him? Why? Have you ever felt like following God and obeying his commands is just too heavy or too much of a burden? What caused you to feel that way?
- Were there any rules your parents had when you were a kid that did not make any sense to you, but now you can see why they were there? How can you see your parents' care for you in those rules now?
- Have you ever broken a rule or done something you knew you were not supposed to because it was for someone you loved?
- What are some of the things you do to show other people that you love and care for them and to make them feel confident in your relationship with them?



GROW:

- Read 1 John 5:1-12 with your D-Group. As you read or listen to this passage what comes to mind? Is there anything in this passage that is difficult to balance with the reality of life? What questions do you have?
- If you had to write a definition of love based on verses 1-3, what would you say?
- Consider vs. 3-5 and our current culture climate, how does this truth impact how we relate to others? If your faith is the victory that overcomes the world, how does it impact your outlook on the world?
- What are some of the arguments people make today for who Jesus was/is? Why do you believe that Jesus is God? According vs. 6-10, how can we know that Jesus is who He claimed to be?
- Take a look at vs. 11-13. What differences does John list between those who believe Christ is the Son of God and those who do not believe? How does the gift of eternal life change the way you live today?
- Throughout his letter, John gives his readers several assurances that they have received the gift of eternal life. Read 1 John 2:29; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 3:14; 1 John 4:7-8; and 1 John 5:4. What insight do these verses give us into the person born of God?



SHOW:

- In light of our current climate (COVID, racial tension, political differences, etc.), how do you think you as an individual and collectively we as the church, can better show God's love to our culture?
- How would you answer someone who asked you to explain eternal life?
- Nelson Mandela once said, "May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears." Considering the promise of life from verses 11-12, how does this impact your thoughts and your choices in day-to-day life?
- Are these characteristics of a Christian—practicing righteousness, not practicing sin, loving others, and overcoming the world—evident in your life? Which is the biggest struggle for you as you live as a child of God?
- What is one practical step you can take this way to live in a way that shows love to someone outside your home?



Sermon Discussion Curriculum

Week 12 – 1 John 5:13-21 – Nov. 15, 2020

ATTENTION D-GROUP LEADER: This is the final week that sermon discussion curriculum will be created and posted in 2020. The sermon discussion curriculum will once again hit your inbox on Dec. 31st in preparation for our new series in Revelation beginning on Jan. 3, 2021. If you are in search of material for D-Group Discussion through the end of the year, we encourage you to check out the <https://bit.ly/2020CurriculumGuide>. Thank you for leading this year! Have a great holiday season!

Helpful Resources for Studying 1 John

- *RightNow Media Study with Tony Evans* – <http://bit.ly/123JohnTonyEvans>
- *The BibleProject Video* – <http://bit.ly/BibleProject1John>
- *John's Letters: Discovering Genuine Christianity* – <http://bit.ly/JohnsLetters>



KNOW:

- What is the strangest, most embarrassing thing you have ever prayed would happen? Did it actually come true?
- In the past, what things have worried you, or threatened your confidence in your relationship to God? What circumstances have caused you to question your belief in God?
- Imagine writing a letter to a group of believers to encourage them. As you finished out your letter, what would you want to include at the end of the letter?
- If there was no story of Jesus, no Gospel, no knowledge of God, what do you think you would love and even worship as the ultimate thing in your life?



GROW:

- Spend time reading 1 John 5:13-21 out loud as a D-Group. What verses stand out to you? How does this passage effectively conclude the message of the whole letter? If you could summarize this passage in a sentence or two, what would it be?
- John tells us that if we ask anything according to God's will, He hears us. What does it look like to have confidence that our prayers will be answered? What answers does God give to our prayers, so that whether we get what we are asking for, or not, we know that He hears us?
- 1 John 5:16-17 John declares there is sin that leads to death and sin that does not lead to death. To help understand this, read Matthew 12:24-32. In this passage, what does Jesus identify as the one sin that cannot be forgiven? What is the difference between "sin leading to death" and "sin not leading to death"?
- In John 5:20-21, what does John remind us about the character of Jesus? What does this mean for us? How do we live differently as a result?
- This sermon series on John's letter has included an encouragement to us on both loving the world and being unscathed by the world's values. John tells us (v. 18) that "everyone born of God does not keep on sinning...and the evil one does not touch him." I don't know about you, but I still sin! What does John mean when he says this?



SHOW:

- What hinders you from praying more regularly and confidently? After John's section on prayer in this final passage of his letter, what has impacted you in a way that will alter your prayer life? How will your prayer life be enriched this week because of what you've learned?
- John concludes his letter with a challenge that we keep each other on track in our fellowship with God. How does John want us to go about helping our fellow believers trapped in sin?
- How could your fellow believers – especially your friends or the people in your D-Group – pray for you today?
- As this series comes to a close, is there anything that sticks out to you that you've heard or experienced? What has challenged and changed your thinking, your heart, or your actions? What portion of this series that will still have impact on your life 5 years from now?