

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Recall and write in your own words the *commandment* that was both *old* and *new* that John wrote about in I John 2:7-11.
 - a. From these verses share how *love* and *light* are entwined.

2. I John 2:12 begins a new paragraph which ends with verse 17. The passage for this week's study (I John 2:12-14) reveals John's heart of love for the believers to whom he was writing. We see three stages of spiritual growth and development identified by his terms of endearment used in these verses. Note them here.
 - a. I John 2:12,13c

 - b. I John 2:13a,14a

 - c. I John 2:13b,14b

3. Previously John has given tests whereby we can be assured that we *know Him* (by experience, not by facts alone), *abide in Him* and are *in the light*. He now offers another way whereby the believer can be assured of his salvation. John points to the believers' spiritual growth as an encouragement to fortify their assurance. John specifically commends each group for their spiritual development. Observe his "assurance building" words by completing the phrases in the following verses:
 - a. I John 2:12 *I write unto you, little children, because* _____
 _____.

 - b. I John 2:13a *I write unto you, fathers, because* _____
 _____.

 - c. I John 2:13b *I write unto you, young men, because* _____
 _____.

 - d. I John 2:13c *I write unto you, little children, because* _____
 _____.

 - e. I John 2:14a *I have written unto you, fathers, because* _____
 _____.

 - f. I John 2:14b *I have written unto you, young men, because* _____,
 _____ God _____,
 _____.

4. I John 2:12-14 contains a message applicable for all Christians regardless of their stage of spiritual development. Whether you are new, young or mature in the Lord, you can be fed and nurtured through this week's lesson. Write a prayer here asking the Lord to open your heart and mind to the rich treasures in His Word that you might grow in your knowledge of Him and become spiritually and stronger as His Word abides in you.

*Progress toward spiritual maturity,
Then, is grounds for assurance.
selected*

SECOND DAY: Read I John 2:12

1. In I John 2:12 John writes unto *little children*. What are all believers called in the following scriptures?
 - a. Gospel of John 1:12
 - b. Gospel of John 13:33a
 - c. Romans 8:15, 16
 - 1) According to Galatians 3:26 how does one become a child of God?
2. From I John 2:12. what should all believers know for a certainty regardless of their spiritual age?
 - a. The forgiveness of sins is a glorious blessing which should cause every believer to rejoice. Note and record the reasons for rejoicing found in the following verses:
 - 1) Psalm 103:3a
 - 2) Psalm 103:(10) 12
 - 3) Isaiah 43:25
 - 4) Micah 7:(18) 19
 - 5) Ephesians 1:7
3. Print the source for forgiveness of sins from I John 2:12b.
 - a. Briefly state how Acts 4:(10, 11) 12 and I Corinthians 6:11b clarifies the phrase *for His Name's sake*.
4. The Psalmist declared *Blessed (oh how happy) is he whose transgression (sin) is forgiven...* Psalm 32:1a. What has knowing your sins are forgiven meant to you?

- a. Express in a prayer or song your heartfelt thanksgiving to the Lord for the forgiveness of your sin. Write your prayer or song title here.

*Since God no longer accuses us,
We will stop accusing ourselves.
We will celebrate His love
And sing His praises! Amen.*

Howard Childers

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:13,14

1. In these verses John speaks first to the fathers. Pastor Chuck says "*Fathers*" are those who *have been in the faith a long time*. Write what you learn about them from I John 2:13a, 14a.

- a. Identify the One Whom they *have known that is from the beginning*.
See I John 1:1,2 and the Gospel of John 1:1,2,14.

2. *Fathers* (mature believers) are those who have *known the Lord* and have grown spiritually through their years of walking with Him. The word *known* here means to know by experience. If our spiritual maturing depends on knowing God, what are some of the ways we learn to know Him?

- a. The pursuit of every Christian should be to *grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (II Peter 3:18).

Describe Paul's pursuit from Philippians 3:8(9) 10.

- 1) In what way does this stimulate your pursuit of the Lord?

- b. Which of the qualities of the Lord revealed in Jeremiah 9:24 have you come to know by experience?

3. Those in the church considered *fathers* have developed a close, personal, intimate relationship with the Lord. Because of their knowledge, wisdom and experience they are able to help younger believers grow and develop in their spiritual walk. Paul exemplified this with Timothy. View Paul's example of being a spiritual father to Timothy by reading the following verses. What was he doing? Answer by matching the words in the right-hand column with the verses in the left-hand column.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| a. II Timothy 1:6,7 | Encourage |
| b. II Timothy 2:15 | Remind |
| c. II Timothy 3:14, 15 | Exhort |

MEN: How does this challenge you to reach out to spiritually younger men?

WOMEN: Share ways you can encourage others to grow spiritually.

PARENTS: How will you apply this in your parenting?

4. John commended the *fathers* because they had *known* Him. How would their knowledge of the Lord and the depth of their relationship with Him strengthen their assurance?

*Lord, I want to know You more
Deep within my soul I want to know You,
Lord, I want to know You
To feel Your heart and know Your mind
Looking in Your eyes stirs up within me
Thoughts that say I want to know You
Lord, I want to know You
Steve Fry*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:13,14

1. 'Young men' is the next group of believers John commends. These believers were not new in the faith but had progressed spiritually in their walk, with the Lord. John affirms this in these verses. Consider his affirmation of their spiritual growth as you record the commendations given to the *young men*.
 - a. I John 2:13b,14d
 - b. I John 2:14b
 - c. I John 2:14c
2. The testimony in I John of the *young men* overcoming the wicked one is indicative of spiritual growth. At this stage, the Christian not only is assured of forgiveness of sin and is growing in the richness of fellowship with God but has experienced victory in the Christian life. What word is used to describe the spiritual condition of this group? Print your answer from I John 2: 14.

because ye are _____

 - a. What does Ephesians 6:10 say about this?
3. The secret of the *young men's* strength is found in I John 2:14c Print it in bold letters.
 - a. *The Word of God abideth (lives) in you* is the necessary key to spiritual growth and victory. How do the following verses support this?
 - 1) Psalm 119:9
 - 2) Psalm 119:11

- b. Explain as you would to a new believer what it means to have the *Word of God abiding in you*.

4. Recall that this term *young men* refers to all young Christians who have progressed spiritually and are on their way to maturity. In what way does the Word of God make all believers strong?

5. John's affirming words to the *young men* were written to bring assurance to them. If you received a letter containing these affirmations how would you be assured?

*We must read the Word of God,
digest it, meditate on it, memorize it
and apply it.*

selected

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 2:13

1. Look again at I John 2:13c and notice the words concerning the *little children*. What does John say about them?
 - a. One of the first indications of a child's growth and development is the recognition of his/her father. This is also true of *little children* (babes in Christ). When you were born again, how did you come to know the Father?

2. Using I John 2:12,13c as a foundation share how you would reassure a *little child* (a babe in Christ) of his salvation.

3. Realizing the importance of spiritual growth what is God's desire for *little children* found in I Peter 2:27

*I want to know you Lord
much more than I do.
Learn to seek Your face
and the knowledge of Your grace.
I want to know You.
Sam Scott and Randy Thomas*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:12-14

1. Recall from I John 2:12 what all Christians should be assured of.

2. Review the three qualities of the *young men* which give evidence to their spiritual growth and development. Write them here.
 - a. How does having the Word of God abiding in you enable you to overcome the wicked one?

 - b. What are you doing on a daily basis to program the Word in your heart?

3. For what are *fathers* in the faith recognized? I John 2:13a, 14a
 - a. Share an instance when a mature believer encouraged or challenged you to a greater knowledge of the Lord.

4. How is knowledge of the Lord crucial to spiritual maturity?

5. In what way has this week's study increased your desire to grow in the Lord?

6. It is the Father's will that all *little children* grow into *young men*, strong through the Word of God, eventually becoming *fathers* with a testimony of faithfulness and endurance because of having a seasoned knowledge of the Lord. Take a few minutes to evaluate your growth in the Lord and then close this lesson with a prayer of commitment to know Him more.

*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple:
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes:
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever:
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold:
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

Psalm 19:7-10