

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## I John

### Lesson 2

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Write one item of *good news* for believers today from last week's Background and Overview lesson or lecture.
  
2. Print the key verse of I John which is found in chapter 5 verse 13. Begin to memorize it, if possible.
  - a. Circle what Christians are to *know* and *believe*.
  
3. Before we begin a more detailed study of I John, we need to acquaint ourselves with foundational truths. This will increase our understanding of John's letter. This week's lesson has been written with that purpose in mind. To prepare your heart and mind for this study, write a prayer here thanking the Lord for His Word and what He will teach you. Ask Him to help you receive and retain all that He has for you during your study time.

*More about Jesus let me learn,  
More of His holy will discern:  
Spirit of God:  
my teacher be,  
Showing the things  
of Christ to me.*

E. E. Hewitt

#### SECOND DAY: Read the Gospel of John 1:1, 2

1. One of the foundational truths John addresses in this letter (I John) is the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Define the word *incarnation*.
  - a. Why is believing in the Incarnation necessary to our salvation?

2. The Bible gives us proof that Jesus was God Incarnate. Record from the following scriptures the words and phrases that prove this important truth:
  - a. John 1:1, 14
  - b. Philippians 2:(5), 6-8
  - c. I Timothy 3:16
3. Share what the Incarnation means to you personally.

*He came from heaven to earth to show the way:  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay:  
'From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift Your Name on high*

**THIRD DAY:** Read John 3:16

1. From the First Century AD and continuing through this 21st Century, John 3:16 remains foundational to Christianity. What is revealed in this verse?
  - a. Why is this scripture so vital to the Christian faith?
2. We learn from Paul's writings that *all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.* (Romans 3:23) and *the wages of sin is death.* (Romans 6:23a). Christianity provides the only solution to this dreadful problem of sin common to all man. What remedy has God provided according to the following scriptures:
  - a. I John 3:5
  - b. Romans 6:23b
  - c. I John 4:9, 10
3. Many people today claim to be saved. Record from these verses in I John the criteria for genuine salvation:
  - a. I John 4:2
  - b. I John 5:1a
  - c. I John 5:10-12

4. Summarize what you must believe to be saved.

a. When did you *believe on the Name of the Son of God?* (I John 5:13)

*Thank you, Lord for saving my soul.  
Thank you, Lord for making me whole.  
Thank you, Lord for giving to me  
Thy great salvation so rich and free.*

**FOURTH DAY:**

Read I John 2:26

1. One of John's purposes in writing this letter was to combat the false teachings that were penetrating all of Ephesus and infiltrating the church. He faced these dangerous heresies even as believers do today. I John gives us tools to confront the false doctrines of our own culture. According to I John 2:26 what did John want to protect the believers from?

a. Define the word *seduce* using synonyms.

1) How might a Christian be led astray today?

2. Among the errors John refuted was a belief that Jesus was only a spirit and did not have a body of flesh. Those who held this belief claimed that matter was evil. Therefore, Christ could not have come in a physical body, and could not have died on the cross to save us from our sins. Through the centuries many have denied that Jesus was both God and man. Today more people have trouble believing Jesus is God. In John's day they had problems believing He was man. How does I John 4:2 counter this erroneous belief?

a. What religions today reject Jesus Christ as God come in the flesh?

b. If you had a friend ensnared in one of these false beliefs, what would you want to say to them?

Advanced Students: Research the false teaching of Gnosticism and record its history. Include Cerinthus influence in Ephesus and on the church. Be prepared to share briefly with your group the error of these beliefs.

3. This false teaching also led to gross immorality and a throwing off of all moral restraint. It made no difference how one lived. How does I John 3:4, 5 address this error?

**FIFTH DAY:** Read I John 1:3

1. Foundational to our relationship with God is the knowledge of His Son, Jesus Christ. According to I John 1:3, with Whom is our fellowship?
  - a. How important is Jesus Christ to our fellowship with the Father? See John 14:6 for your answer.
2. Scan I John chapters 1 through 5 and record as many references to Jesus, God's Son, as you have time to do. Give the scripture's address (chapter and verse number) and what is said about Jesus, God's Son.
3. Choose one of the scriptures from your answer in the preceding question that reveals something about Jesus for which you are extremely grateful today. Share the one you chose and why.

**SIXTH DAY:** Review

1. Write the meaning of the incarnation in your own words.
  - a. Have you noticed that some of the stores are already preparing for Christmas? How does the truth of the Incarnation affect your focus and prepare your heart for Christmas? Think on the words of the following Christmas carol before you answer.

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King,"  
Christ, by highest heaven adorned, Christ the everlasting Lord:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King,"*

2. Explain *as* you would to an unbeliever what you must believe to be saved.
  
3. Many people today claim to be Christians, yet they do not have a personal relationship (fellowship) with God through Jesus Christ. They also do not believe that sexual immorality is sin. What have you learned in this lesson that would equip you to refute their arguments?
  
4. How does this lesson alert you to an awareness of teaching that is contrary to the Word of God?
  
5. Share with your group one thing from this lesson that especially ministered to you this week.
  
6. Complete this lesson by responding to the following awesome proclamation of Christ's incarnation contained in the following song. Write your words of worship here.

*Meekness and majesty,  
Manhood and Deity,  
In perfect harmony,  
The Man Who is God.*

*Lord of eternity dwells in humanity:  
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.  
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty:  
Bow down and worship for this is your God.*  
Graham Kendrick