

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 1:8-10

Lesson 5

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Scan I John 1:5-7. Recall and identify the barrier to fellowship with God and with others.
 - a. Because *God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all* (I John 1:5b), John made it clear that those in fellowship with Him could not walk in darkness. Share how the 'if we' phrases from I John 1:6,7 gives a practical guide to *fellowship with God*.

2. Read I John 1:8-10, the paragraph for this week's lesson. Notice that each of the three sentences in this paragraph begin with *If we*. Complete the 'if we' phrases in the following verses:
 - a. I John 1:8 *If we*

 - b. I John 1:9 *If we*

 - c. I John 1:10 *If we*

3. Open your heart. to the Lord's instruction by expressing in writing your desire to grow closer in fellowship with Him through your study this week.

*I seek You with all my heart,
Don't let me wander off from
Your instructions.*

Psalm 119:10

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 1:8

1. As a believer how do you deal with sin in your life? In our study this week we will encounter two additional barriers to *fellowship with God* caused by sin and discover how the barriers are removed. Identify these barriers from the following verses.
 - a. I John 1:8

 - b. I John 1:10

2. The phrase *we have no sin* is to deny we have a sin nature. We need to recognize men are born with a sin nature. Verify this from Romans 3:12.
 - a. I John 1:8 exposes the *root* of sin in our fallen nature rather than to the *act* of sin. Pastor Chuck says, *the word 'sin' refers to man's sinful nature, which is dominated by the body's needs and appetites.* How is the sin nature described in Ephesians 2:(1, 2) ,3? Use other versions if possible.

 - b. This error is new to our generation. John confronts this same denial of the sin nature which was brought into the early church by false teachers. Not only in John's day but today we also encounter those with this same mindset. What religions or philosophies are you aware of that espouse this erroneous belief?

3. The consequences of denying our sin nature are serious. What are these consequences according to I John 1:8?
 - a. Carefully consider the phrase *deceive ourselves*. Using synonyms define the word *deceive*.
 - 1) Give present day examples of the deception that can result from denying our sin nature.

4. Now look closely at the phrase *this truth is not in us*. I John 1:8c. What *truth is not in us* if we are denying our sin nature? Answer in your own words from Romans 5:12.
 - a. Explain how having the *truth in us* (I John 1:8c) would be a deterrent to the deception of I John 1:8a. Support your answer with scripture if possible.

*Men today who deny their sin nature might say,
sin is just a disease or weakness,
due to heredity or environment
They say it is just their fate and not their fault.*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 1:9

1. Print I John 1:9 here phrase by phrase. Memorize this scripture.
 - a. In the verse you printed. circle the portion which indicates man's part and underline the words which indicate God's part.

2. In I John 1:7, 8 John dealt with man's sinful nature. How he deals with *sins* (plural) in the life of the believer, such *sins* are the result of the *sin* nature. Even though we are cleansed from our *sin* nature when we are born again. we still commit *sins* daily and need continual cleansing in order to keep our fellowship with God unbroken. The remedy for this problem or dilemma is found in I John 1:9. What is the believer instructed to do?
 - a. Using a dictionary define the word *confess*.
 - 1) In Greek, the word *confess* means *to say the same thing as another or to agree with another*. What does this say to you about confessing your sins?
 - 2) To Whom do we *confess* our sins? (See Psalm 51:4.)

3. What do these verses reveal about the confession of sins?
 - a. Psalm 32:(1,2) 3,4
 - b. Psalm 32:5
 - c. Psalm 51:2,3,7
 - d. Psalm 66:18
 - e. Proverbs 28:13a
 - f. Proverbs 28:13b
 - 1) Share one facet of confession from these verses that especially spoke to you.

4. Repentance is a vital part of confession. Repentance is more than being sorry for the sin. It is a determination to turn from it What does Ezekiel 18:30b say about repentance?

5. What value is there in dealing immediately with *sins*?
 - a. Is there any unconfessed known sin in your life? Why not spend a few moments now with the Lord in prayer about this. See Psalm 38:18.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 1:9

1. We have seen in I John 1:9 that the believer's responsibility is to *confess* his/her *sins*. Now write from this verse what God promises to do.
 - a. Forgiveness and cleansing of sins is based on God's character. Print in large block letters the two characteristics of the Lord seen in I John 1:9.
 - 1) Define both these words.
 - (a.) *Faithful*
 - (b.) *Just*
 - (c.) Add *Faithful* and *Just* to your praise vocabulary. Begin now by writing a sentence of praise to God incorporating these.
2. What does God's being *Faithful* say to you about His forgiveness of your sins?
3. Concentrate on the word *Just* for a moment. It would seem to us that because God is *Just*, He would punish our sins instead of forgiving them. Since Jesus bore the penalty for our sins, God is *Just* (righteous) in acquitting us. In light of God's being *Faithful* and *Just* what are we:
 - Forgiven of*
 - Cleansed from*
 - a. What difference should your being *forgiven* and *cleansed* make in your life?
 - 1) How does the *all* in this verse minister to you?
4. Once a believer confesses sin (sees it as God does, acknowledges it and turns from it), God's Word declares he/she is forgiven. What prevents some Christians from believing this?
5. Using I John 1:9 tell how you would reassure someone who was struggling with accepting God's forgiveness.

*White as snow, white as snow though my sins were as scarlet,
Lord I know, Lord I know that I'm clean and forgiven.
Through the power of Your blood, through the wonder of Your love,
Through faith in you I know that I can be, white as snow.*

Leon Olguin

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 1:10

1. We live in a culture where people, even Christians, do not acknowledge their ungodly behavior as sin. What does I John 1:10 say they say?
 - a. Record John's serious indictment of those saying *we have not sinned*. I John 1:10

2. Consider the audacity of those who say they have not sinned. By contradicting God's Word John says *we make God a liar*. Correct their lie, *we have not sinned* through the following scriptures:
 - a. Psalm 14:3
 - b. Isaiah 53:6
 - c. Romans 3:23

3. What does saying, "*we have not sinned*" reveal about those who say it? I John 1:10c
 - a. *His word has no place in our lives* I John 1:10c NIV Consider this statement and share the impact it has on your life,

4. *Living in the truth of God's Word will keep us from the error of I John 1:10.*
How does Psalm 19:7-11 confirm this?

5. *Sin will keep you from the Word and the Word will keep you from sin.* How have you found this to be true in your life?

*Thy Word have I hid in mine heart:
That I might not sin against Thee
Psalm 119:11*

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Read I John 1:8-10. What barriers to fellowship do you see in this passage of scripture?
 - a. How is fellowship with God restored?

2. Summarize what you have learned from this lesson about the following:
 - a. I John 1:8 *sin*
 - b. I John 1:9 *sins*
 - c. I John 1:10 *sinned*
3. How does I John 1:8-10 alter or substantiate your viewpoint of sin?
4. What have you grasped from this week's study that will keep you from the errors dealt with in I John 1:8, 10?
5. Share how this lesson encourages you to walk continually in I John 1:9?

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe:
Sin has left a crimson stain:
He washed it white as snow.
John T. Grape*