

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Lesson I

Welcome to the Joyful Life Bible Study. We look forward to learning and growing with you in our study of the Epistle of I John. This letter, addressed to Christians at the close of the first century A.D., is timeless in revelation and application to Christians of all centuries. Keep in mind as you read this letter that those Christians of A. D. 90 were flesh and blood real people. living in a fallen world and morally bankrupt culture similar to ours today. The *message* (I John 1:5) declared unto them is still being declared unto us today.

This letter has been described as a ***tender letter from the Father to His children***. And so, it is. five times Christians are called ***beloved***. Doubts are dispelled and assurance is established. Our prayer life is enriched with confidence and our joy becomes full as we begin to understand and experience the meaning of ***fellowship*** with our ***Father and with His Son Jesus Christ***.

There are transforming truths contained in this I John letter that are meant to expose our pretensions and impact our life so that we will not only believe like a Christian but behave like a Christian. (I John 2:6)

Start your study each day with a prayer asking the Lord to open your eyes and ears, mind and heart, and will to the wondrous things in His Word. Then, commit yourself to His enabling power to work, in you all of His will and good pleasure.

***Your words are what sustain me;
They are food to my hungry soul.
They bring joy to my heart
And delight me.***

Jeremiah 15:16 TLB



BACKGROUND TO I JOHN

- AUTHOR OF THE LETTER:** The Apostle John, under the inspiration of God. (II Timothy 3:16)
- a. John also wrote the Gospel of John, 11 and III John, and Revelation.
 - b. The name John means *Jehovah is gracious*.
 - c. John was the only Apostle not martyred for Christ.
- DATE OF WRITING:** A.D. 90, approximately.
- a. Fifty to sixty years after Christ's resurrection.
 - b. Approximately 35 years after Paul founded the church in Ephesus.
- WRITTEN FROM:** Ephesus (Locate on a map.)
- a. Church in Ephesus founded by Paul the Apostle. Acts 18:19; 19
 1. Pastored by Timothy.
 2. Pastored by the Apostle John.
- WRITTEN TO:** Circular letter written to Christians everywhere, especially those in Asia Minor. (Perhaps to the seven churches mentioned in (Revelation 2, 3.)
- PURPOSE FOR WRITING:** Fill in the following verses to discover John's purpose:
1. I John 1:4

 2. I John 2:1

 3. I John 2:26

 4. I John 5:13

- CULTURAL CONTEXT:**

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Advanced students research and relate political, commercial, moral, and spiritual condition of Asia Minor in A.D. 90.

FIRST DAY: Background to I John

1. Read over the Welcome and Background to I John. Underline or highlight any thoughts or phrases that especially captured your attention. Share one of these with your group and briefly explain why it is significant to you.

2. John's life can be divided into two very distinct periods - before Christ and after Christ. Get acquainted with John through the following verses by jotting down what is revealed about him. Include encounters, relationships and events. (Do as many verses as possible, all if you have time.)
 - a. Matthew 4:(18a), 21, 22

 - b. Mark 3:17

 - c. Luke 9:54

 - d. Matthew 17: 1, 2

 - e. Mark 14:32, 33

 - f. John 19:26, 27-*The disciple whom Jesus loved refers to John.*

 - g. John 20:(2), 8

 - h. John 21:20

 - i. Acts 1:13, 14

 - j. Acts 3:1-8

Challenge: Write a more extensive biography of the Apostle John using a Bible Concordance or Bible Dictionary.

3. Often religious paintings distort our perceptions of Jesus' disciples. Using the information from the Bible, how would you describe John?
 - a. What impresses you most about him?

4. Watch for the word (*now* which runs all through I John. This word is found in the key verse of this letter, I John 5:13. What did the writer want all believers to *know*!
 - a. What assurance does this give you today?

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, 'Born of His Spirit, washed in His Blood.
F. J. Crosby*

SECOND DAY: Read I John 1

1. Remember I John is a *letter*. This letter is somewhat like a letter from a pastor to each beloved Christian everywhere. Read it through as you would a letter from your pastor addressed just to you. By doing this you will gain a general idea of the contents and the main points. Later on, we will do a much more detailed study of the verses. Begin your *overview* by scanning the first chapter of I John. Read it in the KJV (King James Version), then in other versions if you have time. You may want to underline in your Bible or make a note on your lesson of words repeated in this chapter.
2. Give a brief title to I John 1 that summarizes its contents.
 - a. What impresses you most about this chapter? Be specific.

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2

1. On this first reading of I John 2, you might once again want to mark, repeated words or phrases.
2. Write a short sentence that summarizes this chapter.
 - a. Of the many subjects dealt with in this chapter, which one are you most eager to study more thoroughly? Why?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3

1. Scan I John 3. List a few of the topics in this chapter.
2. Summarize the chapter's contents in as few words as possible.
3. You can hardly escape the emphasis in I John 3 on loving one another, Using the letters in the word *love*, write an acrostic (a sentence using these letters) that expresses love.

L
O
V
E

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 4

1. Circle or underline in your Bible or note on your lesson sheet every reference to God as you scan I John 4.
2. Give a brief title to this chapter.
3. Even in this brief overview of I John 4, we're awed by God's love for us. Express in writing thanksgiving and praise to God for His love for you in sending Jesus Christ, His Son, into the world. Such love!

SIXTH DAY: Read I John 5

1. Reading through I John 5 be on the lookout for words that are repeated. Underline or circle these as before.
2. Summarize this chapter as briefly as possible.
3. Complete this Overview by printing I John 5:20. Focus on the words *understanding* and *know*.
4. So much of the news we hear or read today is depressing, infuriating, or unbelievably disheartening. What is the *good news* for you from I John? Choose just one item for your answer.

*O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within Thy word,
For in Thy book revealed I see Thee, Lord.
William F. Sherwin*

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

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 1:1-4

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share one thought or truth from last week's lesson, discussion, or lecture that lingers with you today.
 - a. Were you able to share a part of the study with someone or apply it to your life in a particular way? How?
2. With this lesson we have included study notes by Pastor Chuck. You may want to look these over before you begin your study in I John or refer to them while you are doing your lesson.
3. Read I John 1: 1-4. Notice that this first paragraph is divided into two sentences in the KJV (King James version). Choose one word from each of the sentences that expresses the writer's desire for those who read this letter:
 - a. I John 1:1-3
 - b. I John 1:4
4. How would you have liked to have breakfast with Jesus on the shore of Galilee? John, the writer of this letter did. See John 21:(4-11), 12.

His eyewitness account of Jesus in I John 1:1-3 presents irrefutable historical evidence that Jesus was all he claimed to be. If you had had John's opportunity to *dine* with the risen Savior, Jesus, what would you have wanted to say to Him?
5. Ask the Lord to open your heart and mind as you study these verses. Write your prayer here.

*O, how I love Him, Savior and Friend!
How can my praises ever find end!
Thru years unnumbered on heaven's shore,
My tongue shall praise Him forevermore.*

A.B. Christiansen

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 1:1-3

1. What must it have been like to actually walk with Jesus along the dusty roads, hear Him speak, be in the ship when He stilled the wind and the waves, see Him transfigured on the mount? Capture the wonder and reality and power of John's eyewitness account in the opening verse of I John by listing in the left-hand column the physical evidence he gives concerning Jesus.

John's Account I John 1:1	Challenge: Support with scripture
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.
d.	d.

Challenge: In the righthand column support John's eyewitness account using scriptures.

2. Observe and note what Peter says about being eyewitnesses of Jesus. II Peter 1:16-18

Challenge: Explain the meaning of the phrase "that which was from the beginning". See Pastor Chuck's study notes.

3. *Seen* and *looked upon* (I John 1:1) are not the same thing. The words *looked upon* mean more than just *saw* Him. They mean to *scrutinize, gaze on, watch as one would a drama. Look upon* Jesus from John's record in I John 1:1. Put yourself in John's place for a moment. What would it have been like to be with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration: to touch the nail prints in His hand as Thomas did? Use one word to express your wonder.
 - a. Can you begin to understand now why John wanted to *declare* or *proclaim* Jesus through this letter? He wants Christians everywhere to *know* that Jesus Christ is actually Who He claimed to be and let that truth penetrate and transform their lives. Why was this declaration so important to establish at the onset of his letter?
 - b. Although you have not with physical ears *heard*, nor with physical eyes *seen*, nor with physical hands *touched* Jesus, how has He made Himself a reality in your life?

*He left His Father's throne above,
 So free, so infinite His grace!
 Emptied Himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race!
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 For O my God, it found out me.*

Charles Wesley

THIRD DAY: Read John 1:1-3

1. What is Jesus called in I John 1:1c?
 - a. Jesus not only preached the Word of life; He was the *Word of Life*. Verify this by the Gospel of John 1:1-4 and John 14:6.
 - b. What does John 1:14a reveal about the Word?
 - c. Jesus, God's Son, the Word, came into our world to reveal God the Father. He was and He is God's Word to the world.
Record in your own words what the Gospel of John 14:9,10 reveals about this.
2. Notice the parenthesis surrounding I John 1:2. Write phrase by phrase what it says about the *Word of Life*.
 - a. Define the word *manifested* which appears twice in this verse.
 - b. What phrases in I John 1:2 support the truth of Christ's Incarnation?
3. Jesus is called the *Eternal Life* in I John 1:2. Why? See John 17:2,3.

*Simon Peter replied, Master, to whom shall we go?
You alone have the words that give eternal life,
And we believe them and know You are the holy Son of God.
John 6:68 TLB*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 1:1-3

1. Now, we come to the subject and verb of this long sentence (I John 1:1-3). Why did John *declare* or *proclaim* what he had *seen* and *heard*?
 - a. Define *fellowship* from Pastor Chuck's study notes on I John 1:1-3.
 - (1) To have this *fellowship* with one another, Who must each of us first have *fellowship* with?
 - (a.) From John 3:16 tell how we come into this *fellowship*.
 - b. How does this *fellowship* differ from friendship with one another?

2. State *The Purpose of Christianity* from Pastor Chuck's study notes. (See also *Purpose of Gospel*)
 - a. What does Pastor Chuck say is *more incredible* about this *fellowship* than our deep communion with one another?

3. From the study notes what else do you discover about this *fellowship* that particularly blesses you?

*Blest be the tie that binds:
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
John Faucett*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 1:1-4

1. Write I John 1:4. Use other versions if you desire.
 - a. We were created to know this *fulfillment of joy*, but we are empty until we come into that *fellowship* with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. No wonder people in the world are on a continual fruitless quest for pleasure and, like Eve in the garden, they follow the serpent's signposts and ignore God's loving call on their hearts. Again, note the condition from I John 1:3b that must be met before we can experience this fulfillment and complete joy.

2. Record what these verses say about *joy*:
 - a. Gospel of John 15:11

 - b. Gospel of John 17:13

 - c. I Peter 1:(7), 8

 - d. Ecclesiastes 2:26

3. This *joy* is not dependent on people or circumstances. It comes from being rightly related to God through Christ. Our salvation brings us into this *fellowship* and this *fellowship* brings *fulfillment of joy*. Reflect on the joy of your salvation as you write these verses.
 - a. Habakkuk 3:18

 - b. Isaiah 12:3

 - c. Psalm 70:4

4. Write a verse, note, or poem that expresses what this *joy* means to you today.

*Holy Holy is what the angels sing:
and I expect to help them make:
the courts of heaven ring.
But when I sing redemption's story
They will fold their wings.
The angels never felt the joy:
That our salvation brings.*

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. If you could go back with John and experience one event with Jesus, what would it be? Why?
2. After *looking upon* Jesus from John's eyewitness account, share how this affects your perspective today and works in you to transform your thoughts and desires.
3. Briefly summarize what you have learned about the *Word of Life*.
4. What new insight did you glean from Pastor Chuck's notes on *fellowship*?
5. Think for a few moments about how the fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ bring *fulfillment of joy*. What are some of the facets of this joy that especially thrill your heart?

*Friendship with Jesus, fellowship divine.
O what blessed sweet communion,
Jesus is a friend of mine!*

STUDY NOTES ON I JOHN 1:1-4

Pastor Chuck Smith

I JOHN 1:1-3 • FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ETERNAL ONE

The difficulty of translating the Greek word "Koinonia" – fellowship, in its deepest sense, communion, partners, partakers, distribution, common. A complete sharing.

I. The Eternal Existence of Jesus Christ.

- A. "That which was from the beginning."
 - 1. "In the beginning was the Word..."
 - 2. "In the beginning God created..."
 - 3. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning..."
- B. "That eternal life which was with the Father."
 - 1. Prophecy of Micah 5:2, "Whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting."
 - 2. "Before Abraham was, 'I AM.'" John 8:58

II. The Humanity of Jesus Christ

- A. "The Word was God; The Word was made flesh. and dwelt among us."
 - 1. "Let this mind be in you... and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:5-8
 - 2. "God was manifest in the flesh." I Timothy 3: 16
- B. The disciples walked with Him, talked, looked upon, heard Him, touched Him.
 - 1. With incredible awe, John reflected upon what actually happened.
 - a. When we heard Him, we were hearing the voice of God.
 - b. When we saw Him, we were seeing God.
 - c. When we touched Him.
 - d. Looked upon, staring transfixed.
 - 2. Through Jesus, men hear voice of God.
 - a. "God who at sundry times and in..," Hebrews 1:1,2
 - b. "The Words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself..."John 14:10
 - 3. Through Jesus, men can see God.
 - a. Philip cried, "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us..."John 14:8
 - 4. Through Jesus, man can touch God.
 - a. That infinite chasm which could not be bridged by man, was bridged by God.
 - 1) Religions are the futile attempts of finite men to reach the infinite God.
 - 2) Christianity is the infinite God reaching finite man.

III. The Purpose of Christianity is to bring men into fellowship (Koinonia).

- A. Fellowship with one another.
 - 1. This deep, close intimate communion with one another.
 - a. Bound together in His love.
 - b. Sharing together His goodness,
 - 2. The depth of fellowship can only be attained in Christ.
 - a. I thrill at the prospect.
 - b. I enjoy its blessings.
- B. Something yet more incredible.
 - 1. It is possible to have this koinonia with God.
 - 2. Fellowship, communion, partners, in common.
 - 3. This is made possible only through Jesus Christ.
- C. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world, he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life'. John 8:12
 - 1. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship.

I JOHN 1:1-4 - THE GOSPEL

I. The Substance of the Gospel Summed Up In Christ.

- A. He is divine and eternal; vs. 1
 - 1. Compare John 1:1, 'In the beginning was the Word.'
 - 2. Any attempt to make Christ anything less than scriptures asserts Him to be is wrong.
- B. He is human and historical: vs. 2
 - 1. 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.'
 - 2. 'The fullness of the Godhead bodily.'
 - 3. Philippians, "He who was in the beginning with God."
 - 4. Second stage of thought development, that eternal God, the creator of all of the universe became as man and lived on earth.
- C. He is life giving and unique. 'That eternal life;' vs. 2
 - 1. Word of life.
 - 2. 'In Him was life.'
 - 3. Jesus said, 'I have come that ye might have life;' 'He that hath the Son hath life,'
 - 4. To possess Christ is to possess life.

II. The Guarantee of the Gospel.

- A. How are we made aware of the truths?
 - 1. Apostolic experience; vs. 1.
 - a. We have heard.
 - b. We have seen with our eyes.
 - c. We have looked upon.
 - d. Our hands have handled.
 - 2. Apostolic Testimony; vs. 2
 - a. They were bearing personal testimony to facts they had seen.
 - b. Attesting the truth.
 - 3. Apostolic Communication; vs. 3

III. Purpose of the Gospel- Fellowship: Divine and Human.

- A. What is fellowship?
 - 1. Partnership
 - 2. Something shared by all.
 - 3. The beautiful experience of Eden restored.
- B. With Whom is our fellowship from divine standpoint?
 - 1. First with the Father.
 - a. Access into His presence - awareness of His love, assurance of His favor.
 - 2. Then with the Son.
- C. Fellowship from human standpoint.
 - 1. 'With us' included apostles and all fellow Christians.

IV. Results of Gospel.

- A. Joy is result of Gospel.
 - 1. Joy is threefold: past forgiveness, present blessing, future hope.
 - 2. The source of joy.
 - a. This comes from fellowship.
 - 1) Happiness and joy contrasted.
 - b. Paul, 'Sorrowful yet always rejoicing,' Because joy not in circumstances but in Lord.
 - 3. The extent of joy, not just joy but ...
 - a. 'Fullness of joy;' - 6 times.
- B. Consecration -John 3:29
Obedience -John 15:10
Brotherly Prayer -John 16:24
Protection -John 17: 13
Fellowship, brotherly love -II John 12
Fact - Faith - Feeling - Fellowship – Fullness

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 1:5-7

Lesson 4

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 1:1-4. The writer of this letter knew Jesus; therefore, he was qualified to proclaim Him. What do you learn about Jesus in this paragraph that increases your knowledge of Him?
 - a. Recognizing that the word *fellowship* means *to have in common*., Who must the believers have *in common* that enables them to have fellowship with God and others?

Answer by filling in the blanks from I John 1:3c. Son _____.

- 1) Write what I Corinthians 1:9 reveals about fellowship.

2. In this week's lesson, I John 1:5-7 and next week's, we will confront barriers to fellowship with God and face tests that prove whether we truly have *fellowship* with God and other believers. Note and mark the paragraph divisions as follows. Circle the word *if* in these paragraphs and write the phrases that begin with *if*.
 - a. I John 1:5-7

 - b. I John 1:8-10

3. Begin your study of I John 1:5-7 with a prayer written here asking the Lord to prepare your mind and heart to receive the truth revealed in these verses. Express your willingness to put into practice His will in response to His love for you. Thank Him for the *blood of Jesus Christ His Son* which *cleanseth us from all sin*.

*It's Your blood that cleanses me,
It's Your blood that gives me life,
It's Your blood that took my place
In redeeming sacrifice
And washes me whiter than the snow,
My Jesus, God's precious sacrifice.*

M.C.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 1:5

1. Print the message from I John 1:5 that John heard from Jesus and declares unto the readers.
 - a. Ponder this I John 1:5b truth about God. *God is Light* refers to many aspects of God's character but especially here to His moral character - purity and holiness. *Darkness* refers to evil and sin. With this in mind... write I John 1:5b in your own words amplifying the word *Light*.

2. Remember this is the message (I John 1:5) John received from Jesus. Remember, also, Jesus came to reveal God the Father. Record what Jesus communicated about the *Light* from the following verses:
 - a. Gospel of John 1:4
 - b. Gospel of John 8:12
 - c. Gospel of John 12:46
 - d. Look at Zechariah's prophecy concerning Jesus in Luke 1:(76,77),78,79. Read in other versions if you desire. What do you learn about Jesus, the *dayspring*, and the *light*, from these verses?
 - (1) Rejoice in the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 9:2 by writing a sentence or verse of thanksgiving.

3. This truth about God, I John 1:5b, is vitally important to our relationship to God. *A man's own character will necessarily be determined by the character of the god he worships.* Selah (stop and think about this). If you view God as tolerating and condoning sin, you cannot be in fellowship with God. Your concept of God determines your relationship. And John makes very clear to us in this verse what Jesus revealed about God. (*God is Light*, that means, His very nature is *light*. There is no darkness or wickedness or evil in Him at all. From the following verses share what they reveal about God in relationship to *light*.)
 - a. Genesis 1 :3
 - b. James 1:17
 - c. Colossians 1:12,13
 - d. II Corinthians 4:6

4. Carefully consider the last phrase in I John 1:5. Write it here.
 - a. What does this mean?

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 1:6

1. How do I know for sure whether or not I am in right relationship (have *fellowship*) with God? John asserts that our lifestyle will demonstrate whether we are in fellowship with God or not. Outline I John 1:6 by filling out the following chart to see how one's conduct must be consistent with one's claim.

We say	We do
If we say that _____	
_____	and _____
we _____.	and _____

- a. Define the phrase *walk in darkness*. (See Romans 13:12; Ephesians 5:3-8.

Challenge: Augment your answer in question 1a by using The Living Bible.

- b. *Walking in darkness* indicates living as those who do not know God. You cannot walk in darkness and light at the same time. (See Luke 11:34.) I John 1:6 exposes the false claim of the person who professes to be a Christian and habitually practices sin. His or her conduct disproves his/her claim. Carefully consider what I John 1:6b says about the contradiction between what these people *say* and what they *do*. Comment on this.
- c. *For though once your heart was full of darkness, now it is full of light from the Lord, and your behavior should show it!* Ephesians 5:8 TLB. How does this scripture speak to you about the transformation that takes place when we are brought into fellowship with God?

2. Contrast Ephesians 2:2 with I Peter 2:9 In light of I John 1:6. What do you see?

Challenge: I John 1:6 also contradicts the claim of the heretics in John's time who were saying all matter was evil so the body was insignificant and it did not matter what the person did, only the "spirit" was important and it could not be contaminated by sin. If people brought that heresy into the body of believers today, how would you refute it?

3. Especially in the 90's we're hearing about and encountering people who claim to be Christians and ignore or justify a lifestyle that the Bible clearly defines as sinful. How do you handle this?

4. *Take no part in the worthless pleasures of evil and darkness... Ephesians 5:11a TLB* If we say that we have *fellowship with Him*, what should we not be having *fellowship* with?
 - a. Explain what *unfruitful works of darkness* means, See Ephesians 5:11 KJV.
 - b. Using I John 1:6b as a guide, answer the question found in II Corinthians 6:14c.

- 1) What insight does this give you on *fellowship with God*?

*A man who walks in fellowship with God
Never thinks that sin does not matter.
chosen*

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 1:6, 7

1. Write I John 1:7 phrase by phrase.

- a. In contrast to I John 1:6 underline or highlight the above phrase that distinguishes what is essential to our fellowship with God.

- 1) There is no gray area in these verses. You are either in fellowship or not in fellowship. In light of I John 1:6, 7 what is the test of being in *fellowship with God*?

Challenge: *Light* symbolizes both (ethical) truth and (moral) purity. How did distortion of God's truth lead Eve to deception, sin, and loss of fellowship with God?
See Genesis 3:1-7, (23, 24).

- a. What parallel do you find in this with I John 1:6,7?
2. Explain in practical terms what the phrase *walk in the Light* says to you concerning fellowship with God and other believers.
3. Look closely at the phrase, *as He is in the Light*. Recognizing this is where God dwells, (see I Timothy 6:16) why is our fellowship with God contingent on our *walking in the Light*? (Review II Corinthians.6:14c) Answer in your own words.
 - a. Print the promise from. John 8:12 that defines simply, *walking in the light*.

4. List the two results of *walking in the Light* from I John 1:7.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - a. The invisible bond of Light unites believers together in *fellowship*.
Observe from Acts 2:(42,43) 44-47 how this *fellowship* affected the life of the early church. What do you see?

5. Concentrate on the words *all sin* in I John 1:7. The cleansing of **all sin** (note: sin singular) through Christ's blood refers to sin past, present, and future • the root of sin in our fallen nature. (In next week's lesson we will deal with *sins* (plural) in the life of the believer.) What does this *all* mean to you today? Write your answer as a note of thanksgiving and praise.

Challenge: What significance is there in identifying Jesus Christ as *His Son* in I John 1:7c?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 1:5-7

Now that you've studied I John 1:5-7, do a personal study by using these questions for each verse: (This is a Bible study tool for studying any verse or passage.)

- I. What does this verse say?
(Be literal - don't add thoughts; use as few words as possible.)

- II. What does this verse mean?
(Explain the meaning of this verse in your own words.)

- III. What does this verse mean (or say) to me?
(This is for application to your life. Ask yourself questions such as: Is there an instruction for me to follow? Am I living out the truth revealed in this verse?)
 1. I John 1:5

 2. I John 1:6

 3. I John 1:7

 4. Now record any fresh insights, discoveries, or gleanings from these verses.

SIXTH DAY:

Review

1. Give a short title to I John 1:5-7.
2. Explain as you would to a non-Christian the meaning of the phrase (*God is Light*).
 - a. Why do you think some people who claim to be Christians refuse to *walk in the Light*? See John 3:(18),19, Answer in your own words.
 - b. If a person has no desire to *walk in the Light* do you think, he is born again? Why or why not?
3. What is the crucial test for fellowship with God according to I John 1:6,7?

Personal: Have you experienced both the blessings of I John 1:7? If not, why not ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your life today.

4. Share a specific verse or passage from your study this week that ministered to you and tell why.
5. How are you applying this lesson to your life?
 - a. In what way is Colossians 1:12-14 an incentive for you to *walk in the Light* always?
6. *Blessed are those who have learned and acclaim (praise) You, who walk in the light of Your presence, O LORD. Psalm 89:15 NKJV.* Complete this lesson by meditating on **this verse**. Then write your response to it.

*We give You praises with thanksgiving
As we lift our hands to praise You
And glorify Your name
For You God
All the wonders that You do
Show Your glory and Your truth
There is no one else like You*

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*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:1, 2

Lesson 6

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Although our contemporary secular culture tries to deny or explain away the existence of sin by blaming it on heredity or environment.

What does the Bible teach us about sin in I John 1:8, 10?

- a. According to the following verses where does sin originate in each human being?

- 1) Jeremiah 17:9

- 2) Mark 7:21-23

- b. Even though we have been cleansed from sin we face the fact that being a Christian does not exempt us from sins and failures. What are believers to do about this? Print your answer from I John 1:9 by memory, if possible.

- 1) What does Proverbs 28:13 add to this?

- 2) How often do we need to apply this scripture to our life?

Personal: How do you respond to the conviction of sin in your life?

*It has been said,
The measure of maturity in the Christian's Life can be determined
by the amount of time between the sin and the confession.*

anonymous

2. Mark the paragraph we will be studying this week, I John 2:1, 2. These verses conclude the passage that began in I John 1:5. You will notice that I John 2:1b,2 is one sentence. What is Jesus Christ called in these verses that describes His ministry for us?

- a. I John 2:1

- b. I John 2:2

3. Review I John 1:1-10: 2:1,2 observing and thanking Him for all that He has done for you that is revealed in this passage. Then ask the Lord to teach you more about Jesus' ministry in your behalf through I John 2:1,2, to help you retain what you learn and affirm your heart's desire to respond to His love for you in loving obedience. Underline the phrases that are your prayer and speak them aloud to the Lord adding whatever you desire. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Jesus, draw me close, closer Lord to You:
Let the world around me fade away:
Jesus, draw me close, closer Lord to You
For I desire to worship and obey*

R. T.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 2:1

1. With what tender words does John address the readers of this letter?
 - a. Most Bible scholars seem to believe from the use of the Greek diminutive (*little*) that this phrase is an expression of endearment and loving affection for these believers. Other scholars believe he is addressing this letter mostly to new believers and that this phrase substantiates that viewpoint. In either case what does the possessive word *my* say to you about John's relationship to them?
2. Recall from the Overview of I John and I John 2:1a why John said he was writing *these things* unto them.
 - a. John is in no way indicating through this phrase that believers can live a life of sinless perfection. Rather, it is to emphasize the seriousness of sin. There could be a dangerous deduction from I John 1:8-10 about sin, *that since everyone sins and there is forgiveness for sin what's the big deal? Sin doesn't matter very much.* What have you learned from I John 1:6,7,9 that fully contradicts that kind of reasoning?
 - 1) Add other scriptures to support your answer if you desire.
3. This same attitude towards sin, treating sin as if it were of no consequence, exists among too many believers today. There is a tendency to think that *because everyone is doing it and because all we have to do is confess and then there is forgiveness that it is okay to sin*. What does the phrase *that ye sin not* say to you about this casual attitude?
 - a. Record and embrace the instructions concerning sin given to believers in these scriptures. Compare other versions if you desire.
 1. Romans 6:11-13
 2. I Corinthians 15:34
 3. Ephesians 4:17,(18-21),22-24

4. List the exhortations from Romans 13:11-14 to reinforce John's message from I John 1:5-2:1a

*My God! My God! And can it be that I should sin so lightly now,
And think no more of evil thoughts than of the wind that waves the bough:
I sin and heaven and earth go 'round as if no dreadful dead were done:
As if Thy blood had never flowed to hinder sin or to atone.*

selected

*The cross is the mirror in which the selfishness, hideousness, and penalty of human sin is reflected.
Our deepest self is revealed by our attitude to the death of Christ on the cross for our sins.
To see what your sin really means bring it into the light of the cross.*

J. Gregory Mantle

5. How do these quotations awaken you to the awfulness of sin?
 - a. Now consider what John is saying in I John 2:1a. Can you sense the passion of this godly, aged Apostle who literally saw our Lord Jesus Christ nailed to the cross because of man's sin and rebellion? What do you hear John saying?

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:1

1. Most of us are well aware that as Christians we are to *walk in the light* - to live pure, holy lives. Yet we are also aware that we fall, we fall short of being what we are called to be **we** sin. We become conscious before God that we are guilty. This is not to lead us to despair. Why not? Answer by writing I John 2:1b phrase by phrase.

2. The Greek word *paracletos* is translated here *Advocate*. We are more familiar with *paracletos* being used in reference to the Holy Spirit and being translated as *Comforter*. In I John 2:1b *paracletos* is used in reference to Jesus Christ in a more limited sense and means *one called alongside to defend us*. An advocate in the courtroom today would be called a *defense attorney*. The advocacy of our Lord Jesus in our behalf is entirely different from a defense attorney today. We know we are guilty, and we deserve the penalty for our sin. Jesus pleads the believer's case before His heavenly Father. He represents us before God's throne. When we confess our sins to God, God forgives us because of Christ's advocacy. He has already taken the penalty for our sin. On the basis of what He has done you are pardoned. Write a newspaper headline or article which describes your courtroom pardon because of your Advocate.

Challenge: Contrast a few of the differences between the believer's Advocate and a defense attorney in the courtroom today.

3. Ponder a moment the phrase *Jesus Christ the Righteous*. I John 2:1c *Only through a Righteous Savior could we be cleansed from all unrighteousness*. How does II Corinthians 5:21 describe this transaction?

4. Looking at Jesus through the Word as our *Advocate* brings a deep sense of gratitude and praise. See Him also in His ministry in our behalf from the following verses and briefly record what they reveal about Him:
 - a. Hebrews 2:17,18
 - b. Hebrews 4:14-16
 - c. Hebrews 7:25

5. What difference does it make to you that *Jesus Christ the Righteous* is your Advocate?

*When the Judge shall at last
call my name from the throne and say:
Who will answer for this guilty soul?
By His grace I shall see Jesus standing for me
And His sweet voice will say:
I will answer for Thee
--Pastor Chuck*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:2

1. The word *propitiation* in I John 2:2 is translated from the Greek word *hilasmos* – which signifies a means whereby sin is covered and remitted. In I John 2:2 Christ Himself is the *Hilasmos* · the *propitiation* (the atoning sacrifice that turned away God's judgment). "He is the One Who took God's wrath against our sins upon Himself and brought us into fellowship with God; and He is the forgiveness of our sins, and not only ours but all the world's."
I John 2:2 TLB (Christ's death covered the sins of everyone ever born or who will be born but if they do not choose to accept Him as their Savior, they cannot experience what John wrote about in this verse.) Simply stated, *through Christ's death on Calvary, God's righteous demand that sin be punished was met. 'Believers, therefore, can experience forgiveness and fellowship. Underline or highlight the definition of *Hilasmos* as it pertains to Jesus Christ.*
 - a. Write I John 2:2 in your own words substituting your name for the pronoun 'our'.

Advanced Students: Take a closer look at *propitiation* from the Old Testament type in Leviticus 16:6-22, 34. How is the blood sprinkled on the mercy seat relevant to Christ's work of propitiation?

2. The word *atonement* is very much a part of *propitiation* Christ is our *atoning* sacrifice. In the

Old Testament the Hebrew word for *atonement* is *kaphar* which means *to cover*. We see this in the sprinkling of the blood on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies in the Temple which made a covering for their sins and turned away God's righteous judgments, but this did not bring them into fellowship with God. See Hebrews 10:4. Christ's atoning sacrifice not only satisfied God's righteous judgment but removed our sins and brought us into fellowship with God. One of the definitions of atonement is reconciliation. Combine what you've learned in today's lesson on I John 2:2 about *Propitiation* and *Atonement* and compose a sentence verse or poem of thanksgiving praise and worship or choose a song that expresses your appreciation and love. Write that here.

FIFTH DAY: Review I John 2:1,2

1. What do we learn about sin and sins from I John 2:1,2?

2. Why do we need an Advocate with the Father?

3. Many Christians have a limited view of Jesus and never press in to discover more about Him. The lesson this week expands our knowledge and appreciation of Him. Gaze upon our Lord Jesus through the following verses. What do you see?
 - a. I John 2:1b

 - b. I John 2:2a

 - c. Hebrews 7:25

 - d. Hebrews 4:14-16

4. Why will believers never have to experience the righteous judgment of God for their sins? Answer from I John 2:2 by filling in the blanks: Because Jesus Christ, the righteous is the _____ for our sins.
 - a. View this from another perspective from Romans 5:8-11. Why do we joy in God?

5. Add to your praise vocabulary the words *Advocate* and *Propitiation*. (You may want to add some blank sheets of paper to your notebook to record these week by week.) Complete the following sentences using these words:
 - a. Because You are my Advocate

 - b. Because You are my Propitiation

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 1:1-10; 2:1,2

1. What do I John 1:6,7,9; 2:1,2 have to do with our *fellowship with God*?
2. What does *walk in the light* say to you personally about your life?
3. What is necessary for the believer to walk in unbroken *fellowship with God*?
 - a. How is *broken fellowship* restored?
 - b. What help do these scriptures (I John 1:5-10, 2:1,2) give you as you come to terms with sin in your life?
 - 1) What happens to a Christian if he fails to confess his sins? (I Corinthians 11:31,32; Hebrews 12:7-9)
 - (a.) What is certain about unconfessed sin? Proverbs 28:13a
 - 2) What does Psalm 32:5 say will be the result of our confession of sin?
 - (a.) Amplify this from I John 1:9b.
4. Thoughtfully review I John 1:1-10; 2:1,2 once more. Share the impact these verses have had in your life.
 - a. Report any changes you are making in response to these truths if they are not too personal.
5. Where do you find yourself today in this passage? I John 1:1-10; 2:1, 2

*I just want to be where You are,
Dwelling daily in Your Presence
I don't want to worship from afar,
Draw me near to where You are.
Don Moen, Integrity Music*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:3-6

Lesson 7

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 1:1-10, 2:1-2. Share how I John 1:5-2:2 has affected the way you live your life.

a. Refresh your memory in the truth of I John 1:7 by writing it here and personalizing it.

1) What does *walk in the light* say to you about things that might be doubtful (you're not sure whether or not they are sinful)?

2. Every believer needs assurance that he/she is truly born again. That assurance comes from the Word of God, in scriptures such as Romans 10:9,10. The paragraph (I John 2:3-6) we will be studying this week underscores that assurance by revealing how our lifestyle backs up our profession. Our desire to be obedient to His commands supports our claim and reassures us. With this in mind slowly read the following verses:

And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whosoever keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.
I John 2:3-6 KJV

Now go back over these verses and: **a. circle** the word know;

b. underline the words *keep* and *keepeth*; **c. highlight** the words *commandments* and *word*.

3. We live in an age where lawlessness abounds. Rebellion against authority and circumventing the laws is becoming more and more the norm. People don't trust those in authority, so they feel justified in their lawlessness. Even some Christians bristle at the words *command* or *commandments* in the Bible. They forget that their God Who created them loves them with an everlasting love and *commands* only what is best for them. To prepare your heart for this week's lesson. look: at the word *commandments* from the perspective of Psalm 119:75 KJV. Write this verse here as an acknowledgment of His authority over your life and your desire concerning His commandments.

*For this is the love of God,
that we keep His commandments:
and His commandments are not grievous.*

I John 5:3

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:3

1. Notice the word *hereby* that appears twice in I John 2:3-5. It is defined as *by this means*. By what means can we *know that we know* Him?
 - a. His *commandments* here does not refer to the Old Testament Law but to the commandments (precepts and instructions) given by our Lord Jesus. What do these verses reveal about *His (Jesus') commandments*?
 - 1) John 13:34
 - 2) John 14:21a
 - 3) John 14:23a
 - 4) John 15:10
 - 5) John 15:12
 - 6) II John 5,6
 - 7) Meditate on these verses before moving on in the lesson. How do they speak to you?
 - b. The Greek word for 'know' used in this verse is *Ginosko* - to know by experience. Its usage here indicates *knowing on a continuing basis*. We continue to build *assurance* in our heart that we *truly know* Him when we keep *His commandments*. Keep means *obey* (watchful, observant, obedience). Contemplate and record the promises to those who keep His commandments from the following scriptures:
 - 1) John 14:21c
 - 2) John 14:23c
 - (a.) How will His promised presence resulting from our obedience to His commandments enrich our assurance that we *know* Him?

Advanced Students: Define the *Law of Christ* (Use Galatians 6:2; II John 5; James 1:25; 2:8 as guidelines).

2. Print Jesus' command from John 15:17.
 - a. To what degree are we to love one another? See John 15:12b; I John 3:16.
 - b. Write the exhortation from Galatians 6:2 which is a practical demonstration of Christ's love at work in us. Use other versions if you desire.
 - 1) How do you put this into practice?

Challenge: In what sense does obeying Jesus' commandments fulfill the Old Testament Law? See Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:8,10.

3. Consider your life in relationship to I John 2:3. How does the desire to *keep His commandments* assure you that you *know Him*?
 - a. If you *know Him* and you experience failure in keeping His commandments, what will your reaction be?
 - 1) Review and write the provision for our failures from I John 1:9. Apply it today, if necessary.

*To keep His commandments means
we obey carefully and consistently.
Christianity requires moral conduct.
selected*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:4

1. I John 2:3-6 provide tests or ways to examine our lives to see if what we say lines up with what we do. These verses are key to our assurance. How does I John 2:4 expose the person who is all *talk* and no walk?
2. Explain as you would to a person who professes to know Him but hates other Christians and unbelievers and has no desire to walk in love towards anyone, how what they say invalidates their profession.
3. Why is it a lie to claim to *know Him* if there is no obedience to His commands? Use scriptures to support your answer. See I John 4:7,8.
4. If you *know you know Him* and yet you feel that there are people you cannot love, what should you do about it? Use Romans 5:5; Ephesians 4:31,32 as guidelines for your answer.
5. Ask yourself today: Which of these two verses. I John 2:3 or 4, accurately describes my life? For another perspective on these verses. look, at I John 3:23. What do you see?
 - a. How does I John 3:18 reinforce I John 2:3, 4?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:5

1. But *if anyone obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in Him.* I John 2:5 niv. Write I John 2:5 phrase by phrase from KJV in the left-hand column. In the right-hand column write each phrase in your own words personalizing it.

I John 2:5 KJV	I John 2:5 (in your own words)
a. But whosoever	a.
b. In Him verily	b.
c. hereby	c.

2. *Word* in I John 2:5 includes all that is made known to us of the Divine will concerning our conduct. *If true love exists in the heart, it will be carried out in the life. Love and obedience are intertwined, each manifests the other.* Obedience to His Word is proof of our love for Him. Contrast the one that *saith* (I John 2:4) with the one that keepeth (I John 2:5) by completing the following phrases:

a. He that saith, I know Him. and keepeth not His commandments. _____

b. But whosoever keepeth His Word, in him, verily, _____

1) *Perfected* means: brought to an end by completing or perfecting or accomplishing; is matured. In I John 2:5 it speaks of the love of God operating through him who keeps His Word. God's love is made complete in him. Two explanations are given for this phrase:

1. God's love for the believer is made complete when it moves the believer to acts of obedience (see 4:12).

2. That our love for God becomes complete when it expresses itself in obedience (3:16-18).

➤ Either way, when we keep His Word, what do we *know*? I John 2:5c

(a.) How does this build your assurance?

*Obedience grows out of love for God.
Love is the soil in which obedience flourishes
Our love for God is our response to His love for us.*

I John 4:19

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 2:6

1. Read I John 2:6 and define the word *abide*. Use synonyms if you desire. (*Abide* is one of John's favorite words. He uses it twenty-three times in his writings.)
2. If we say we abide in Him, how ought we to walk (live)? I John 2:6

a. Who is our example?

1) How is our keeping His commandments related to our walking *even as He walked*?
See John 8:29c.

3. This scripture (I John 2:6) needs to be written on our hearts. We should memorize it and apply it. Print this verse here and think seriously about what you *say* and what you do.
4. Meditate on I John 2:6 in the light of I John 2:28. What does this *say* to you about the way you live and where you abide?

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:3-6

1. Good works cannot contribute to our salvation, but they can and do contribute to our assurance. How does keeping His commandments contribute to our assurance?

2. What is the essential point or theme of I John 2:3-6?

3. How is obedience entwined with assurance that we *know* Him?

4. Explain the meaning of the phrase *keep His commandments*.

5. What do you observe about the one who does not keep (obey) His commandments from I John 2:4?
 - a. On what do the professing Christians of I John 2:4 often build their assurance?
 - b. How should this affect his assurance that he *knows* Him?
 - 1) What would we want the result of this scripture to be on the one who recognizes *the truth is not in Him*?

6. Review I John 2:3-6 and complete this phrase: I know that I know Him because, _____

7. Think once more about I John 2:6, What is your response to this verse?

8. How does I John 2:3-6 urge you to live more and more in obedience to His commandments?

*Truth of our relationship to Christ is revealed
not by what we say about knowing Him
but by how we live.*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:6

Lesson 8

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:3-6 and write a short title for this passage.

2. In our eagerness to gain knowledge of the Bible we often move ahead to new territory before we've had time to assimilate (take in and thoroughly comprehend) and apply what we've discovered. This week we are going to pitch our tents in I John 2:6 and camp there. This is a verse that challenges us to confront our conduct in light of our claim. This is a good place to stop and examine our life by asking ourselves: Is there evidence in my attitudes and actions that make my claim of *abiding in Him* credible? Slowly and thoughtfully print I John 2:6 here.
 - a. Underline what we say and what we *ought* to do.
3. Begin this lesson by writing a prayer asking the Lord to grant you greater understanding of what it means to *abide in Him* and to *walk as He walked*. Then ask Him to help you put into practice what you learn. Thank Him for His love for you and His answer to your prayer.

*If you abide in Me,
and my words abide in you,
Ye shall ask what ye will,
And it shall be done unto you.
John 15:7*

SSECOND DAY: Read I John 2:6 with intent to memorize.

1. Observe each phrase of I John 2:6 in the left-hand column. In the right-hand column write each phrase in your own words.

I John 2:6 KJV	I John 2:6 in your own words
a. He that saith	a.
b. he abideth in Him (Jesus)	b.
c. ought himself also	c.
d. so to walk	d.
e. even as He walked	e.

Challenge: What do you learn about the phrase *in Him* from Ephesians 1:4?

2. In our last lesson in I John we defined the word *abide*. Today, define the word *walk* as it pertains to the Christian's life.
3. Although we probably would not use King James terminology in claiming *we abide in Him*, yet if we are claiming to be a Christian, it is equivalent to saying *we abide in Him*. View this from John 15:5, 6, What do you see in relationship to I John 2:6?
 - a. Since being a Christian implies our *abiding in Him*, what evidence does I John 2:6b say *ought* to support our claim?
 - b. We need to recognize right here the truth of John 1 5b. Write it here, personalizing it.
 - 1) How will truly *abiding in Him* affect our *walk*?
 - (a.) I John 2:6 continues John's exposition on the effect of obedience on our assurance that we are His children. How does our *walk* affect our assurance?

*In Jesus I am abiding, no change my heart shall fear
And safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here.
His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim,
He knows the way He taketh and I will walk with Him*

Anna L. Waring

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:6

1. How can I know I am abiding in Him? According to I John 2:6 you can have assurance that you are if you *walk as He* walked. How did He walk?
Take a look at His example for us from John 13:2-15. Summarize this event in one sentence.
 - a. Record what Jesus said to His disciples about this (John 13:14,15). Selah - pause and think about this.
 - b. What attitudes and actions are exemplified by Jesus in washing the disciples' feet?
 - 1) Observe Jesus from Matthew 11:29. What do you see that coincides with this example? Use other versions if you like.
 - c. Washing feet in Jesus' time was the task of the lowliest household servant. The people in that culture wore sandals and walked on dusty roads. This ritual has lost its significance in our culture. Explain ways we can follow Christ's example of humility and servanthood in today's culture.

2. Read I Peter 2:21. From I Peter 2:18-23 briefly record the example Christ left for us in your own words.

a. How does this speak, to you about your life?

1) How does this kind of behavior authenticate your *abiding in Him*?

3. If we are to *walk* as Jesus *walked*, what does He tell us we are to do in Luke 9:23?

a. How does this speak to us about our selfishness and self-will?

b. Why do you think so many Christians ignore this verse?

1) From Philippians 2:5-8 what did Jesus do that set an example for us to follow?

(a.) How is His Word to us and His example for us supposed to affect our attitudes and behavior? Identify and define these from Philippians 2:(1,2) 3 (4). Use other versions. If you have a Scofield Bible note the marginal references.

(b.) Please do not skip over these verses lightly. Think about them in relationship to other people in your life. Do they know you're abiding in Him because these attitudes and these actions are evidenced through you? Ask the Lord to show you those areas in your life of failure or rebellion or carelessness in conforming to His will and Word. Especially concentrate on Philippians 2:3. Write your prayer here.

*I want to be a follower of Christ. I want to be one of His disciples.
I want to walk in His beautiful light so let me be a follower of Christ.*

What do I have to do? What do I have to say?

How do I have to walk each and every day?

Tell me what is the cost if I carry the cross?

So let me be a follower of Christ

Selected

FOURTH DAY:

Recite I John 2:6

1. *The emphasis in I John 2:6 is not on the making of a false claim but on the behavior which makes the claim credible.* Notice the word *ought* in this verse. Someone has defined it as *consequence*. *The logical consequence of abiding in Him is to walk as He walked.* How would you define the word *ought* as used in this verse? Use a Strong's or Young's Concordance if you have access to one.

2. Observe the words *even as* in I John 2:6. What do they mean?
 - a. Notice the words *even as* in the following scriptures. Write what they reveal about our *walk*. (Do as many as you can; all if you have time.)
 - 1) Matthew 20:(26,27) 28
 - 2) John 15:10
 - 3) John 17:(15) 16
 - 4) John 17:18
 - 5) John 17:22
 - 6) Romans 15:(1) 2,3a
 - 7) I Corinthians 11:1
 - 8) Ephesians 4:32: Colossians 3:13
 - 9) Ephesians 5:22-24
 - 10) Ephesians 5:25,28,29,33
 - 11) I Corinthians 7:8
 - 12) I John 3:3
 - 13) I John 3:7
 - 14) Revelation 3:21
 - 15) Look over these verses and note the ones that speak to you most emphatically today about the way you are to live out your faith.

WIVES' ALERT:

HUSBANDS' ALERT:

SINGLES' ALERT:

(a.) Choose one verse that challenges you to a deeper obedience. Share why.

FIFTH DAY:

Read John 15:(1,2) 4-10

1. Write what the following verses teach us about *abiding in Him*:
 - a. John 15:4
 - b. John 15:5
 - c. John 15:6
 - d. John 15:7
 - e. John 15:10

2. Why did Jesus say He had spoken these things unto them? John 15:11
 - a. How are *abiding* and *joy* entwined?

3. Take a closer look at the fruit from Galatians 5:22,23 that results from *abiding in Christ*. Write it here. Think over your attitudes and behavior this week in light of this.
 - a. How does the fruit that is produced from abiding in Him relate to our walk?

Challenge: Include in today's study other aspects of Jesus' walk that should characterize our walk. Supply the scriptural references with them.

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:6

1. *BE WHAT A BELIEVER IS SUPPOSED TO BE* could be the title of this week's lesson. How is this defined by Paul's exhortation in I Timothy 4:12? List these. Use other versions if you desire.
 - a. According to James 5:10 how are the prophets an example to us?

2. How does *walking as He walked* contribute to our assurance that we are *abiding in Him*?

3. Were there areas where you felt the *walk* was too difficult or impossible? Explain your answer.
 - a. How do these verses help you with this?
 - 1) John 15:5c
 - 2) Matthew 19:26b
 - 3) I John 5:3
 - 4) Philippians 4:13

4. Share any insights you have received from this lesson that have fortified your desire to *abide in Him consistently and walk as He walked*.

*"I just want to be where You are,
Daily dwelling in Your presence.
I don't want to follow from afar.
Draw me near to where You are."
Don Moen*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:7-11

Lesson 9

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Share a specific way I John 2:6 has become a guideline for your life.
 - a. How does I John 2:3-6 contribute to your assurance that you are in Him?

2. *Obedience* to His commands is one test given by John to shore up our assurance we are in fellowship with Him. Another test given to confirm our assurance is given in I John 2:7-11. Note and mark this paragraph division. Summarize this passage with a short title.

3. We know from Ephesians 2:8, 9 that our salvation is not obtained by our works, but we also know, that our being born again should result in good works. (Ephesians 2:10) I John 2:7-11 compels us to face the truth about our condition before God. If we are truly born again there will be discernible evidence that backs up our profession and strengthens our assurance that we are born again. Underline or highlight from the foregoing sentence what the discernible evidence should accomplish in a believer's life.
 - a. What is your deepest desire or concern as you study this week's lesson? Write it here as a prayer. Trust the Lord to work in your life in answer to your prayer. Thank Him for His Word and the assurance these scriptures supply.

*Love, love, love, love,
Christians this is your call,
love your neighbor as yourself
For God loves all.*

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:7

1. Observe and underline the word *commandment* in I John 2:7
 - a. List what you learn about the commandment from verse 7.

1) What does I John 2:5 reveal about this *commandment*?

2. This was not a *new* commandment. John himself heard Jesus proclaim it many years before he wrote this letter we are studying now. Many centuries before Christ's birth, God gave a similar commandment. Write this commandment next to the following references:
 - a. Leviticus 19:18b
 - b. Matthew 22:(37, 38) 39
 - c. John 13:34

Challenge: In what sense do these references define the phrase *from the beginning*?

3. This commandment *was old* also to those to whom John was writing because from the very first day they became believers they were taught that this *Law of love* must be the law of their lives. Verify this statement by writing I John 2:7b.
 - a. Observe and print what James 2:8 calls this *command* of love.

*Loving others is called "royal"
because it is the supreme law
governing all other
relationships.*

Selah

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 2:8

1. The word *new* in I John 2:8 does not mean *new* in the sense of time but *new* in freshness. Was His commandment alive and at work in the attitudes and actions of these believers? Was it presently the governing principle of their Christian walk? What did Jesus say about this commandment in John 13:34,35?

2. We know this *thing (loving others)* was true in Him, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is true in us also. How have we been enabled to have *this thing* true in our life? Answer by completing the following phrase from I John 2:8b:

I can love others because _____, _____
_____.

3. Think of some of your reactions to others before you met Christ. What does it mean to you today that *the darkness is past*, and *the true light now shineth* in your heart?

*Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee!
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me:
Once I was blind, but now I can see –
The Light of the world is Jesus.
Philip P. Bliss*

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 2:9-11

1. Again, for the fifth time in this letter John challenges what people *claim* by what they *say* and *reveal* by what they do. Why is the claim of the man of I John 2:9 false?
 - a. Brother in these verses (I John 2:9-11) refers to fellow Christians. John's very black and white in these verses - there is no gray area. He uses strong contrasts to emphasize the truth. Define the word *hateth* (hate). Use synonyms if you desire.

 - b. What does the phrase *even until now* indicate? I John 2:9b.

2. Describe the condition of the one who claims to be *in the light but hateth His brother* from I John 2:9,11.
 - a. What is the effect of walking in the darkness of hatred? I John 2:11c
 - 1) Explain in a practical way how hatred blinds a person.
 - 2) Who blinds those who walk in hatred? II Corinthians 4:4
 - 3) How does the blindness of hatred distort a person's perception of the one he/she hates?
 - b. What do these verses add to this?
 - 1) I John 3:14,15
 - 2) I John 4:20
3. Notice the companions of hatred in Galatians 5:20,21. List them. Use other versions if you like.
 - a. What does the Bible teach about the future of those who do such things?
 - b. Contrast this with the fruit of the Spirit which is produced through the lives of those who are truly *walking in the light*. Galatians 5:22,23
 - 1) How does Galatians 5:24 define those who are Christ's?
4. If through these verses you recognize your lack of love for fellow believers, what will you do?
5. How would harboring hatred in our heart affect our confidence in our salvation?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 2:10

1. Print the glorious truth of I John 2:10 phrase by phrase.
2. How does loving your brothers and sisters in Christ fortify your assurance that you are born again? Answer from I John 2:10.
3. The word *stumbling* in I John 2:10 refers to a *trap* or *snare* that causes one to fall into sin or error. *There is nothing in him to make him stumble* is one translation of 1John 2:10b. Connect the links of *love* and *light* to not stumbling.
Explain the way this operates according to I John 2:10.
4. All families have conflict and tensions, selfishness, and willfulness to contend with. This is also true of the family of God on earth. In what way does I John 2:10 encourage you to resolve these conflicts?
 - a. Share practical ways of doing this.

*Trust whoever loves his fellow man is "walking in the light"
And can see his way without stumbling around in darkness and sin.*

I John 2:10 TLB

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:7-11

1. According to I John 2:7-11 how important is it for Christians to *love one another*?
2. Jesus expanded the meaning of love for others in the following scriptures. Who do they include and why?
 - a. Matthew 5:(43) 44,45
 - b. Luke 6:27,28,32,35
 - c. What is your response to this?

3. How does *walking* in the light keep you from *stumbling* in the darkness of hatred?

4. Review the awful consequences of hating others from I John 2:11. How does this challenge you to walk ever more consistently *in the light*?

5. If you were sitting in the congregation of the First Century Church when this letter was read and you hated one of your fellow believers, what would you want your response to this portion of the letter to be?
 - a. What would you hope you would recognize?

6. How is your claim of walking in the light substantiated according to I John 2:(9) 10?

7. Our personal assurance of salvation is strengthened by the reality of our love for other Christians. Share how this inspires you with a greater desire to love others more and more and more.

8. In what way have you been most edified by these verses?
 - a. How will you apply these to your life?

*The genuineness of our faith is revealed
in our right relationship to God and to others*
-selected

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

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Timeless Joy

Christmas Study

FIRST DAY:

Read Galatians 4:4,5

1. Time is always a very relevant and important word during Christmas. We do not know for sure what the New Year will bring, but we do know what happened in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago. Record this from Galatians 4:4,5. (Write it as a news report if you desire.)
 - a. Why was this a *time* of great *joy*? See Luke 2:(8-10)11.
 - 1) Consider the word Savior in the context of John 3:16,17. What do you read in these verses about our Savior that bring you joy?
 - 2) Observe the words *everlasting life* from John 3:16. In what way does *everlasting life* speak to you about *Timeless Joy*?
2. Think about our theme for this week's lesson: *Timeless Joy*. The word *timeless* has been defined as *that which cannot be measured by time; unending; transcending time; eternal*. In light of this how would you define the word *joy* as it relates to Christ's birth?
3. Begin this week's lesson with a prayer asking the Lord to grant you a fresh revelation of what His birth means in your life as you study. Express to Him your deepest desire this Christmas in response to His love for you.

*Such love springs from eternity
Such love streaming through history.
Such love, fountain of life to me
O, Jesus, such love.*

Selected

SECOND DAY:

Read Luke 1:26-38

1. View this *timeless joy* from the following prophecies written over 700 years before Jesus' birth. What do you see:
 - a. Isaiah 7:14

 - b. Isaiah 9:6 (7)

 - c. Notice the phrases *and shall call His name* and *His name shall be called* in these prophecies. Thoughtfully record each of these names. Add them to your adoration and worship this Christmas season.
 - 1) Choose one of these names and share what it means to you today.

Optional: Research and record other Old Testament prophecies that relate to Christ's birth.

2. Observe the miraculous unfolding of these astounding prophecies through Luke 1:26-38. Summarize each of the following passages in your own words.
 - a. Luke 1:26-29
 - 1) Pause and think about the promise to Mary, *the Lord is with thee*. Luke 1:28 Put yourself in Mary's place and share what those words would mean to you.

 - b. Luke 1:30-37
 - 1) Focus on Luke 1:36,37. Why do you think Gabriel told Mary about her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy?

c. Luke 1:38

1) BEHOLD *the handmaid of the Lord*. What does this phrase signify to you about Mary?

(a.) How is this an example for your life?

3. How has today's study of Luke 1:26-38 enriched your *joy* and prepared your heart for worship this Christmas season?

THIRD DAY: Read Luke 1:46-55

1. Read Luke 1:46-55 in light of Psalm 40:16. Mary spoke her song of praise before the birth of Jesus. Take *time* now to write your own magnificat (song of praise) to the Lord for the birth of Jesus our Savior.

2. Review Jesus' birth by reading Luke 2:1-7. Again, we BEHOLD the greatest birth announcement ever written. It is recorded in just one verse. Let the glorious wonder of this verse permeate your heart and soul as you write Luke 2:7 phrase by phrase.

a. What is your response to this verse?

3. Luke 2:7 substantiates the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, verifies the Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 4:4, and through succeeding centuries kindles the fire of hope and joy in the believer's heart. Now walk back to Bethlehem in your mind's eye and try to view these scenes as though you had never seen them before. Read Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1a; Luke 2:1-7 and briefly describe what you see.

Challenge: What do you learn about Jesus' birth from the following verses:

- a. John 1:14 (This verse describes the incarnation of Christ. The incarnation means God became Man.)
 - b. I Timothy 3:16
4. In what practical way can you share the *timeless joy* of Jesus' birth with others?

FOURTH DAY: Read Luke 2:8-20

1. Write a brief report of the amazing account recorded in Luke 2:8-20.
 - a. What was the shepherd's response to all *that they had heard and seen*? Luke 2:20
2. Consider Luke 2:10 in the light of the title of this lesson, *Timeless Joy*. For whom were the *good tidings of great joy* intended?
 - a. Why hasn't the birth of Christ brought *timeless joy* to *all people* (Jews and Gentiles)?
 - b. In what way has Christ's birth brought you *great joy*?
 - c. What example can you draw from the shepherds in sharing this *timeless joy*? Luke 2:17

3. Provide a brief account of another interesting event associated with the first Christmas from Matthew 2:1-10.

a. Notice verse 10. Why do you think they *rejoiced with exceeding great joy* when they saw the star?

4. Read Matthew 2:11,12. What did the wise men do when they saw the young child:

a. Matthew 2:11a

b. Matthew 2:11b

Advanced Students: Research what each of the gifts the wise men brought might have represented. Use scripture to support your answer.

To think about: *What treasure will I prepare in my heart to give Jesus this Christmas?*

FIFTH DAY: Read Luke 2:21-40

1. Describe the event in the following verses:

a. Luke 2:21

1) What do you learn about the name *Jesus* from Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:31?

b. Luke 2:22 (23) 24

2. What do we *behold* about Simeon in Luke 2:25, 26?

a. What did he do? Luke 2:27,28

b. What did he say? Summarize Luke 2:29-32.

1) What three things did he say he had seen concerning Jesus? Luke 2:30,32 Selah

2) What was Joseph's and Mary's response? verse 33

c. After Simeon had blessed them, what did he say to Mary? List these four statements from Luke 2:34,35.

1) Consider Luke 2:35a in the context of John 19:25a. Selah - pause and think about this. Comment on this.

2) In spite of Mary's pain and sorrow what is the last glimpse we have of her? Acts 1:(13) 14

Optional: Share how her being there validated the truth of the gospel Jesus came to proclaim.

3. Read Luke 2:36-38. Focus intently on Anna's dedication and devotion to the Lord. Thoughtfully write from Luke 2:37b,38 what the Bible reveals about her.
 - a. With all the responsibilities and distractions of living in this present day and age, in what way is Anna a role model for you?

SIXTH DAY:

Review

1. Think of the *timeless joy* of the Christmas message. The birth of Jesus Christ is without parallel in history. From the first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15 to the details of the divine conception recorded in Luke 1:(26-34)35 to the manger in Bethlehem, we stand in awe of God's plan through the ages. BEHOLD this from Luke 1:31.
 - a. How would this take place? Luke 1:(34)35

2. Review Luke 2:19. What *things* will you keep or treasure and *ponder* in your heart this Christmas?
 - a. What helps you do this?

3. Review Luke 2:10-14. Join the angel choir this Christmas in praising God. Why are they praising and glorifying God?

4. In what area have you profited the most through your study this week?

Optional: If you could interview anyone who is a part of the Christmas story **except** the angels or Baby Jesus, what question would you ask?

- a. Which of these people would you most like to have been? Why?

5. How has this study of Christ's birth inspired your heart to a deeper dimension of worship?

6. Complete this lesson by writing a sentence expressing what the *good tidings of great joy* mean to you today (Luke 2:10).

Timeless Joy

*Of the Father's love begotten, 'ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore He shall be.*

selected

“Christmas Joy and Blessings”

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:15-17

Lesson 11

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:12-14, We might title this passage: *Assurance of Salvation Evidenced by Spiritual Growth*. In what way does John help the readers recognize they are growing?
 - a. Are there discernible areas of growth in your life since you've come to Christ? Share one.
 - 1) How does this contribute to your assurance that you are born again?
 - 2) Consider II Peter 3:18 and relate how Joyful Life Bible studies are helping you grow.
2. We are now assured that if *we keep His commandments, walk as He walked, are loving our brothers and sister, and growing spiritually*, we have evidence of salvation and a basis for our assurance. We also know that there is forgiveness for our failures when we're *walking in the light*. Now, John turns the reader's attention to a serious problem prevalent in every generation of believers. He issues a strong command and a stern warning concerning it. Note and mark this paragraph division, I John 2:15-17, and summarize the contents in one sentence.
3. *World* in these verses refers to the *world (kosmos)* system which is hostile and in opposition to God and ruled by Satan. From the garden of Eden until now all people have been subjected to this seduction of the *world* to draw their hearts away from God. Understanding the *world* (referred to in these verses), its influence, its corrupt character, and its future, should cause every believer to want to abandon it. Ask the Lord to give you a fresh revelation of the *world* from His perspective through your study of these verses. Then, ask Him to work in your heart a desire to forsake it and live wholly in His Kingdom. Write your prayer here.

*Dead to the world and its applause,
To all the customs, fashions, laws, of those who hate the humbling cross.*

Amy Carmichael

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:15

1. Print the first two phrases of I John 2:15 in large block letters,
 - a. How does Galatians 1:4 help you understand this command?
 - b. Briefly define what you think *love the world* means.
 - c. What should we be setting our *affection* on? Colossians 3:2

2. *Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in Him.* (I John 2:15 AMP) If we *love the world*, this system which is alienated from God and organized around the principles of its ruler, satan, and is opposed to Christ's work on earth, what does I John 2: 15b reveal about us?
 - a. **Circle** the word *love* in this verse and **underline** or **highlight** the word *world*.
 - b. Note the word of in I John 2:15b (κιν). Most Bible scholars believe this should be translated for as in the Amplified version above. Make a note of this in your Bible.
 - c. Why do you think love for God and love for the world are incompatible?

3. *Love not the world* does not refer to the physical, material world created by God for us to appreciate and enjoy. It does not mean we are not to love the world of mankind, people, for whom Jesus died (John 3:16). In your own words define the word *world* that we are not to love.

4. Carefully ponder I John 2:15. Examine your life in the light of it. Don't try to escape or avoid this command. We're dealing with eternal truth here. How does this verse speak to you today?

*Stop loving this evil world
and all that it offers you,
for when you love these things
you show you do not really love God.*

-I John 2:15 TLB

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 2:16

- John now specifies *the things* (verse 15) that are in the world that we are not to love (set our hearts on). List these here from I John 2:16 in the left-hand column. Use other versions of these phrases to fill in the right-hand column or use the Living Bible paraphrase in italics below the chart.

I John 2:16 KJV	I John 2:16 other versions
a.	a.
b.	b.
c.	c.

*... for all these worldly things,
 these evil desires → the craze for sex,
 the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you,
 and the pride that comes from wealth and importance –
 these are not from God.
 They are from this evil world itself.*
 -I John 2:16 TLB

- Compare I John 2:16 with Genesis 3:6 by filling out the following chart:

I John 2:16	Genesis 3:6
a. lust of the flesh	a.
b. lust of the eyes	b.
c. pride of life	c.

- Notice the brevity of time between Eve’s temptation and her sin. How does that speak to you?

Challenge: Parallel *these things* (I John 2:16) with the devil’s temptation of Christ using one of these references: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

- How did Jesus confront these temptations?

- Read this paraphrase of I John 2:16 with the purpose of expanding your understanding. *These are the evil things in the world: wanting things to please our sinful selves, wanting the sinful things we see, being too proud of the things we have. But none of these things come from the Father. All of them come from the world.* (I John 2:16 THE EVERYDAY BIBLE) Observe how the world sets its bait to ensnare us. Cite practical examples of how the world does this.

4. What do these verses reveal about the world:
 - a. John 17:14,15
 - b. Romans 12:2
 - c. Titus 2:1,2
 - d. James 4:4

5. Think of the ways the *world* tries to program our minds today. *Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within...* (Romans 12:2a Phillips). Why must our minds be *remolded* or *renewed*?
 - a. In what practical ways can we *renew* our minds?

On Loving the World
 ...your whole aim is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.
 You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband's enemies.
 Don't you realize that making friends with God's enemies -
 the evil pleasures of this world - makes you an enemy of God?
 I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy the evil pleasures of this world,
 you cannot also be a friend of God

- James 4:3,4 TLB

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:16

1. Satan's methods of deception and seduction are not new. View this from Genesis 3:1-5. Especially notice the phrase "hath God said". Trace his method, his lies, his promise. What do you see?
 - a. Do you ever experience the enemy trying to plant doubt in your heart about God's Word, God's goodness, and God's will? Why does he do this? (See John 10:10a) Think this through and answer in your own words.

 - b. With Eve, the serpent focused her attention on what was forbidden rather than the paradise she had. What do you wish Eve had done?

 - c. List a few of the consequences of Eve's choice.

2. When a Christian chooses the world's way in opposition to God's revealed will, what can be some of the consequences? Answer through the following scriptures:
 - a. Psalm 38:1
 - 1) Scan this Psalm for a view of chastening. What do you see?
 - b. Mark 4:19
 - 1) Note the three reasons the Word is choked out and a person is unfruitful.
 - c. Galatians 6:7, 8
 - d. How are these consequences a deterrent to deliberate, willful sin?
3. If we're ensnared by any of *these things in the world*, what is the key to deliverance? Answer from the following:
 - a. Psalm 38:18
 - b. Isaiah 55:7
 - c. Romans 8:13
 - d. Romans 13:14
 - e. I John 1:9
4. What safeguards do you surround yourself within and without on a daily basis to keep you from becoming ensnared by the world?

LOVE GOD, HATE SIN, Reckon the old man (sin nature) dead.

LOVE GOD, HATE SIN, And by the Spirit be led.

- Romans 6:11 perspective

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 2:17

1. Record the two powerful reasons for not loving this *world* given in this passage:
 - a. I John 2:15b
 - b. I John 2:17a
 - c. Selah - pause and meditate on these truths in relationship to your life, -Share one of your thoughts on this.

2. Write I John 2:17 in your own words.

3. Consider the phrase *the world passeth away* in the context of the following verse: *...every contact with the world must be as light as possible, for the present scheme of things is rapidly passing away. That is why you should be as free from worldly entanglements as possible.* (I Corinthians 7:31 Phillips) What does this verse say to you?
 - a. Notice the word **worldly** used in this verse. Using a dictionary define it and also the word **worldling**.

 - b. How should the knowledge of the transient, impermanent quality of this world and its lusts:
 - 1) alter your perspective of it
 - 2) affect your contact with it
 - (a.) Share a way to keep yourself aware of I John 2: 17a on a daily basis.

4. Read the following scriptures, then write a brief biography of Demas.
 - a. Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24 (A.D. 64)

 - b. II Timothy 4:10a (A.D. 66)

 - c. How is II Timothy 3:(1-3) 4 an explanation of Demas' behavior?
 - 1) In conjunction with I John 2:15-17, what warning is there here for you?

5. Only one kind of person *will (live) abide forever*. Who does I John 2:17 say this is? Print your answer.
 - a. Do not rush through this I John 2:17 warning in order to complete your lesson. STOP. Ask the Lord to reveal to you what this means in your life right now. Share any insights, if not too personal, you receive on *doing the will of God*.

6. The choice between the lust of the world and the will of God confronts all Christians. In what way does Romans 13:11-14 speak to you about your choice?

*Keep close, keep close,
If you are close you will be keen (alert),
Your heart will be set on things that abide.
You will not be attracted by the
world that crucified Him
-Amy Carmichael*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2: 15 17

1. What does it mean to love the *world*?

Challenge: Using a Bible Dictionary or commentary define *world* (Greek: kosmos) as used in I John 2:15-17.

2. Why are we not to love the *world*? Use what you learn about the *world* in I John 2:15-17 for your answer.

- a. Why can't we love the *world* and the *Father*?

3. The church has tried for many generations to set up standards that would keep Christians separate from this *present evil world* (Galatians 1:4). Often the result has been indifference, circumvention, rejection, or rebellion. The reason is that man's rules do not change the HEART. If we *love the world* we're going to keep company with it. Explain as you would to someone who *loves the world* and *the things in the world* yet claims to be a Christian what the Bible teaches about this. (Use I John 2:15-17 and Matthew 6:24 to help you with this.)

- a. Why can't we love the *world* and the *Father*?

- 1) John 14:30

- 2) Ephesians 2:2

- 3) Ephesians 6:12

- b. Recognizing that anything we love *more than* God is an idol how does I John 5:21 relate to I John 2:15-17?

4. What did Jesus pray for His disciples and all Christians in John 17:15?
 - a. Explain this saying concerning Christians: *We are in the world but not of the world.*
5. In response to I John 2:15-17, what will you do when you feel an overwhelming urge to indulge in this *world's* passions, pleasure's, or pride?
 - a. How does Proverbs 4:23 speak to you about this?

Optional: To what degree do you think TV, R-rated movies, videos, and secular novels contribute to the *lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes* and mold values and attitudes towards sin?

6. Write what Titus 2:(11) 12, 13, (14) teaches about living in this present world. (age) that will help you do the *will of God*. Personalize this.
7. Think today of the promise of I John 2:17b. What it means to *abide forever (with the Lord)*. I Thessalonians 4:17c Weigh this in light of the world's temporal, vain charms. Complete this lesson by reading Colossians 3:1-4 in the light of I John 2:17b. What can you do to cooperate with the Lord in the application of these scriptures to your life?

*Forbid it Lord that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me
most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- Isaac Watts*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:18-23

Lesson 12

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:15-17. What have you learned from this passage regarding *loving not the world*?
 - a. How have you noticed the attraction to the world growing dim in your life?
 - b. How have you noticed your love for the Lord growing brighter?
 - c. Why can't we have love for the world and love for the Lord at the same time?

*Farewell, vain world; my soul bids you adieu;
My Savior taught me to abandon you
Your charms may gratify a sensual mind,
But cannot please a soul for God designed.
-David Brainerd*

2. Much of I John deals with the importance of fellowship with the Father. We have learned that we cannot have fellowship with Him if we are walking in disobedience or hating our brother. Now, John is dealing with a factor that comes from the outside that can hinder our fellowship. It is again exposing the lie by means of another test, the doctrinal test. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in this week's study as follows and briefly state the key thought of each:
 - a. I John 2:18,19
 - b. I John 2:20,21
 - c. I John 2:22,23
3. As you begin studying this lesson, take a moment to thank God for the fact that you can have fellowship with Him and ask Him to reveal to you anything in your life that might be hindering that fellowship whether it is coming from the inside or the outside. Write your prayer here.

*The entrance of Thy words giveth light;
it giveth understanding unto the simple.
Psalm 119:130*

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:18

1. The *last time* is referring to the period of time that began with Christ's first coming to earth and ends with His ultimate return in glory. However, world events and Bible prophesy point to the time we are now living in as being the latter end of the *last times*. From this explanation, define *last time* in your own words,
 - a. How does knowing you are living in the *last times* affect how you live today?

2. What do the following verses reveal about the *last times*?
 - a. Acts 2:17

 - b. I Timothy 4:1

 - c. II Timothy 3:1-5

 - d. II Peter 3:3
 - 1) In what ways do you see these things occurring today?

3. *As ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists* (I John 2:18). The many *antichrists* who have already come (in contrast to the one *antichrist* who shall come) are here identified as human teachers. The word *antichrist* in the Greek is *anticristo* meaning *against Christ*. An *antichrist* is anyone who teaches contrary to the basic doctrines about Jesus Christ. The Gnostics of the day taught that God did not manifest himself in the Person of Jesus Christ. How do the following scriptures refute this?
 - a. Philippians 2:6

 - b. Colossians 1:(13)16

 - c. Colossians 2:(8)9
 - 1.) Why is it so important that we believe that Jesus Christ is God?

 - 2.) In what way is Christ's deity denied today?

Challenge: What doctrines, in addition to the deity of Jesus Christ, are essential for salvation? Use scripture to support your answer.

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:19

1. What does I John 2:19 give as proof that these *antichrists* were not really part of the body of Christ?
 - a. Does this mean that anyone who leaves your church is not a part of the body of Christ? Why or why not?

2. *If they had been of us they would have continued with us.* (I John 2:19) How do the following scriptures support this:
 - a. Colossians 1:23a

 - b. Hebrews 3:14
 - 1.) Does this mean we will never sin? Use what you have learned from I John 1:8 - 2:1 to support your answer.

3. What do the following scriptures reveal about those who do not rightly represent God:
 - a. Psalm 78:36,37

 - b. Matthew 7: 15

 - c. Romans I: 18

 - d. II Timothy 3:5

 - e. II Peter 2: 18, 19
 - 1.) What do you discover in these verses that will alert you to be on guard against false teachings?

 - 2.) How should we react to those who bring false doctrines into the church? Use scripture to support your answer.

4. List from the following verses some of the advantages that a true believer has over one who only professes to believe in Jesus Christ:
 - a. II Peter 1:3

 - b. Galatians 3: 29

 - c. Add some verses that are special to you that relate to this.

5. Read Jeremiah 32:38-40. How do these verses comfort and assure you?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 2:20, 21

1. What does I John 2:20, 21 reveal that is true of all believers?
 - a. *But you hold a sacred appointment, you have been given an unction - you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all know (The truth) (I John 2:20 AMP) The Holy Spirit is the means of this anointing which is given to all believers when they receive Christ as Savior. What do the following verses reveal about this anointing.*
 - 1.) John 14:16
 - 2.) John 14:26
 - 3.) Ephesians 1:12-14
 - 4.) STOP! Don't proceed until you have thanked *the Holy One (God)* for this wonderful provision so that we might know the truth. Write your thanks here.
2. John is stating in I John 2:20, 21 that the Christian has spiritual understanding that the natural man does not have. How does I Corinthians 2:10-12 support this statement?
 - a. Share a time in your life when you experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit when confronted by someone who was against Christ (antichrist).
3. *But you have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.* Does this mean that we automatically know all spiritual truth? What do the following verses say about the need to grow in grace and in knowledge:
 - a. II Peter 3:1a
 - b. Colossians 1:10b
 - 1.) In what ways are you growing in truth because of your study of the Word of God?
4. *One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is that of enlightening the believer regarding the meaning of the Word of God. The ability to know the truth. gives the saints the ability to detect error. Wuest* How have you found this to be true in your life?
 - a. What are some things that we can do to allow the Holy Spirit to fulfill His ministry within us to keep us in truth?
 - b. What can hinder this work of the Holy Spirit from being effective in our lives?

*It is extraordinary how things fall off from a man,
like autumn leaves once he comes to a place where
there is no rule but that of the personal
domination of the Holy Spirit.*

Oswald Chambers

5. The *antichrist* referred to in this passage did not know the truth. Who is the Truth?

John 14:6

a. What is the effect of knowing the Truth?

1.) John 8:32

2.) John 18:37c

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 2:22, 23

1. We are living in an age where tolerance is promoted. Christians are being accused of being narrow-minded and having a lack of compassion. Write the two words John uses to label those who deny Christ.

a. What do they deny?

1.)

2.)

b. From I Timothy 6:3-5 describe those who profess to believe, but do not follow Biblical teaching. Compare with other versions.

1.) How are we to respond to them?

(a) Why do you think this is necessary?

2. How did John know that the Gnostic teaching that *God had not come in the flesh* was a lie?
I John 1:1, 2

a. What have you experienced in your life that validates the claim that Jesus is God?

3. Look up the word *deny* (*denieth*) in a dictionary. Record the definition and synonyms.

4. According to I John 1:22 the antichrists were denying that *Jesus is the Christ* (Greek: *Cristos*, meaning anointed, i.e. the Messiah). How do we know that Jesus is the true Messiah:

a. Mark 8:29

b. John 4:42

c. John 6:69

- 1.) How does reading accounts of those who saw *Christ* and acknowledged Him as Christ affirm your faith?

5. Many assert that they can believe in God the Father, without believing in God, the Son. Why is this not possible?

6. Notice the word *acknowledgeth* in I John 2:23. Using a dictionary define the word *acknowledge*.
 - a. In light of this, what do you think it means to *acknowledge* the Son?

1.) Why is this so important?

*I believe in Jesus
 I believe He is the Son of God
 I believe He died and rose again
 I believe He paid for us all
 -selected*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 2:18-23

1. What is an *antichrist*?
 - a. How would we recognize an *antichrist*? I John 4:(2), 3
 - b. How would their teaching affect the body of Christ?

2. What might the fact that the false teachers *went out from* them indicate about the church that John was writing to?

3. How would their obedience to John 6:28, 29 have corrected these *antichrists*?
 - a. What are we to believe about Him?

4. How has having the *unction from the Holy One* affected your life?

5. Why is it important to know and believe in the claims of Christ?

6. Share an insight you have gained through this study of I John 2:18-23

*If Christ did not speak the truth in all matters.,
 the claims about Himself vanish like the idle babbling of a lunatic bent on deceiving the world.
 Unlike Plato and Aristotle, He could not afford to be wrong - even once.*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 2:24-29

Lesson 13

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Our encounter with these false teachers in I John 2: 18-23 has heightened our awareness of the danger of not abiding in Christ. What have you learned from this passage regarding *antichrists* in the church?
 - a. What did these antichrists refuse to believe about Jesus Christ?
 - a. What do true Christians believe about Jesus Christ?
 - 1.) Why is this so important?
 - b. What do Christians have that enable them to *know the truth*?
2. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in I John 2:24-29 as follows and give a brief title to each:
 - a. I John 2:24, 25
 - b. I John 2:26, 27
 - c. I John 2:28, 29
 - 1.) Having distinguished between the false teachers and the true believers. and having described the character and consequence of heresy. John now draws attention to the two safeguards which will protect believers from being led astray. According to the following verses, if we are to guard against error, what two things must *remain (abide)* in the believer:
 - (a.) I John 2:24a
 - (b.) I John 2:27a
3. Begin this lesson by meditating on the incredible gift we have in the *anointing* of the Holy Spirit. Take a moment to thank the Lord for this *unction* and for placing within you this wonderful *Teacher*. Write your prayer here.

Without the present illumination of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God must remain a dead letter to every man, no matter how intelligent or well-educated he may be.... It is just as essential for the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of Scripture to the reader today as it was necessary for Him to inspire the writer in their day.

William Law

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 2:24, 25

1. Write John's instruction to the readers in the first sentence of I John 2:24, highlight or underline the word *abide*.
 - a. *What you have heard from the beginning* refers to the Gospel, the apostolic teaching, and the original message which had been preached (Word of God). It had not changed and would not change. John was not the only apostle who stressed the importance of steadfastness to the basic teachings of Christ. Both Paul and Peter in writing their last letters (both of them knowing they were about to die), reminded the recipients of their letters of what was most important. Record from the following scriptures what they had to say about observing the original message:
 - 1.) Paul (II Timothy 1:13)

 - 2.) Peter (II Peter 1:12)
 - b. How would holding fast (abiding) to the basic teachings of Christ and the apostles keep us in the truth?
2. *Remember your leaders and superiors in authority who brought to you the Word of God. Observe attentively and consider their manner of living - the outcome of their well-spent lives - and imitate their faith. (that is their conviction that God exists and is the Creator and ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of eternal salvation through Christ: ...) Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the same, yesterday, today, and forever - to the ages. Do not be carried about by different and varied and alien teachings; (Hebrews 13:7-9a AMP).* Parallel these verses with John's warning to his readers in I John 2:24.
 - a. How would knowing that *Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever* help to refute the claims of many today who say that Biblical teachings are outdated?
3. Record what I John 2:24 teaches about the following:
 - a. abide
 - b. remain
 - c. continue
 - d. What do they say *to you* about your walk in Christ today?
4. If we continue in the Son and in the Father, what are we promised (assured of)? I John 2:25 Print your answer.
 - a. STOP! Think about the thrilling truth of this promise. Write one aspect of having *eternal life* that causes you to want to abide in truth,
 - b. How does Romans 4:(20), 21 assure us that God is faithful to His promise to give believers eternal life?

5. What does the Bible reveal about *eternal life*? Use the following verses to answer:
 - a. Matthew 25:46
 - b. John 10:28
 - c. Titus 1:2
6. In what way does the promise of eternal life relate to your choices and decisions on a daily basis?

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2:26, 27

1. I John 2:26 refers to those *that seduce you*. I John 2:18, 22 describe these *seducers*. What two words does John use to describe them?
 - a. Look up the word *seduce* in the dictionary. What does it mean to *seduce*?
 - 1.) What is the goal of a *seducer* according to the following verses:
 - (a.) Acts 20:30
 - (b.) II Timothy 3:13
 - 2.) Who is the father of all lies and seduction? John 8:44
2. The Gnostics taught that only a few believers received "divine enlightenment" and *knew the truth* about Jesus (I John 2:21). John declares all believers know the truth. How does I John 2:27 refute the Gnostics' lie?
 - a. I John 2:20 NIV states *but you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth*. Now, in verse 27, John is reminding us again of the anointing we have received of Him which abides in us. Complete I John 2:27 KJV by filling in the following blanks which describe various attributes of this *anointing*:
But the anointing which you received of Him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing _____ and _____ and is _____ and even as it hath _____ you, ye shall abide in Him.
 - b. What one word would you use to describe the Holy Spirit from what you have learned in verse 27?
 - 1.) How do John 14:26 and I Corinthians 2:13 confirm this?
3. I John 2:27 does not mean human teachers are unnecessary or unimportant. It means that the Holy Spirit equips us to discern truth in the light of the scriptures. I Corinthians 2:14 recognizes that spiritual things are *spiritually discerned*. Recall a specific time in your life where the Holy Spirit opened up your understanding concerning the truth about Jesus.
 - a. Paul was careful to preach *all the counsel of God* (Acts 20:27). How do the following verses explain why we need Spirit-led, human teachers:

1.) Acts 5:42

2.) Ephesians 4:11

(a.) What does Ephesians 4:(11), 12-14 state is the purpose of the gift of teaching?

4. ...*the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you.* The word *abideth* here speaks of the fact that the Holy Spirit permanently remains in the believer. How does this speak to you that the Holy Spirit, who *remains in you*, has chosen to reveal truths to you about God that the natural man cannot understand?

*for me to learn anything spiritual,
it takes the work of the Holy Spirit in my heart...
Pastor Chuck*

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 2:28

1. To what does the phrase from I John 2:28 *when He shall appear* refer? Answer from Titus 2:13.
2. How does Corinthians 3:12-15 provide a clue to what might make us *ashamed* at His return?
 - a. What do these verses reveal about believers:
 - 1.) Romans 14:10
 - 2.) II Corinthians 5:10
 - b. Ponder the word *ashamed* in this verse. Express briefly the awfulness of being *ashamed* at Christ's return for the church.
3. What is John's instruction to those who desire to *have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming*? I John 2:28a
 - a. What have you learned from your study of I John 2 about *abiding*?
 - 1.) Realizing the importance of *abiding*, what changes have you made in your life?
4. What is the definition of the word *confidence*?
 - a. How does abiding in Him obliterate any fear of being ashamed at His coming?
 - b. What things shake that confidence?
 - c. What would you like to be doing when the Lord returns?

5. Such confidence is not human presumption, but a natural result of ABIDING in HIM. Share how knowing that the Lord's *coming* is imminent is affecting the way you live.

Optional: Compose an acronym using the letters A B I D E. (One word for each letter.)

*O Lord, that I could stand before You unashamed; How could that ever be?
If I abide in You and Your Holy Word, unashamed I'll never be.
My precious child, it's for that very joy I died on Calvary.*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 2:29

1. *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him* (I John 2:29 NIV). To be *born of Him* we must acknowledge that God is righteous. In addition to describing character that is right or just, the word *righteous*, in the Greek signifies that of being *just without prejudice or partiality*.
2. What do these verses say about ability to *do righteousness* in and of ourselves:
 - a. Isaiah 64:6
 - b. Romans 3:10
3. How would you explain what it means to be *born of Him*? Use John 1:13 and I Peter 1:23 for your answer.
4. "The visible truth of being a Christian is right behavior, many people do good deeds but don't have faith in Jesus Christ. Others claim to have faith but rarely produce good deeds. A deficit in either faith or right behavior will be a cause for shame when Christ returns. Because true faith always results in good deeds, those who claim to have faith and who consistently do what is right are true believers. Good deeds cannot produce salvation (see Ephesians 2:8.9) but they are necessary proof that true faith is actually present (James 2:14-17)." *Life Application Bible in Christ* How does walking in righteousness prove our faith in Christ?
 - a. How will our right behavior keep us from being ashamed at *His coming* and add to our assurance right now that we are his?

*Loved with everlasting love, led by grace that love to know;
Spirit, breathing from above, Thou has taught me it is so!
Oh, this full and perfect peace! Oh, this transport all divine!
In a love which cannot cease, I am His, and He is mine.*

W. Robinson

SIXTH DAY:

Review I John 2 (concentrating on verses 24-29)

1. This week, we have completed I John 2. Look over this chapter and choose the one area that has had the most powerful influence in your life.
2. Chapter 2 has taught us much about the word *know*. *Knowing Him* is the most important thing for anyone to know. Observe this by writing Jeremiah 9:24.
 - a. Compare the results of *knowing Him* with the results of *not knowing Him* by filling out the following chart: (Use I John 2 as your resource.)

Knowing Him	Not Knowing Him
d. vs. 3	a. vs. 3
e. vs. 10	b. vs. 9
f. vs. 17	c. vs. 15
g. vs. 20	d. vs. 19
h. vs. 21	e. vs. 4

3. Record what is true of those who *abide in Him* from:

- a. I John 2:24
- b. I John 2:25
- c. I John 2:27
- d. I John 2:28

1.) Meditate on all that we possess when we abide in Christ. Which of the above blessings do you tend to take for granted?

What do *antichrists* teach and why should we avoid them?

4. What two resources have been given that enable the believer to discern between truth and error:
 - a. I John 2:24a
 - b. I John 2:20, 27
5. According to I John 3:3, what effect is the hope of the return of Christ to have on the believer?
6. What does it mean to you to be *born of Him*?
7. How is adherence to the truth (abiding in Him) in spite of Satan's attempts to seduce or deceive us (unglue us) further evidence of our assurance?

John sums up his message making application of chapter 2 in I John 2:28, 29.

*Whatever is our greatest need:
disciplined obedience or true discernment
our task is to abide in Him.*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 3:1-10

Lesson 14

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:24-29. The results of *abiding* in the Word of God (*that which you have heard from the beginning* I John 2:24) and the wonderful provision of the anointing of God *abiding* in us (I John 2:27a) speaks of our being steadfast, remaining. Just as we have the promise of the Holy Spirit remaining in us, it is essential that we remain (abide) in the Word. What does this passage teach us is the result of *abiding* in the Word?
 - a. Why is it not necessary for believers to depend on human teachers to help them discern between truth and error?
 - b. We can *be confident and not be ashamed* at the coming of Jesus Christ. How is this possible? Jude 24 (25)
 - 1.) How do we cooperate with Him so we will have this I John 2:28 *confidence*? Jude 20, 21
 - (a.) Share practical ways we do this on a daily basis.
2. The mention of being *born of Him* In I John 2:29 leads John to a statement of the wonder of, God's love in I John 3:1. John continues in the next nine verses to remind us of the transformation that has occurred in the lives of those who belong to Christ. He contrasts the *children of God* with the *children of the devil*. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in this week's study and briefly state the key thought of each.
 - a. I John 3: 1-3
 - b. I John 3:4-10
3. I John 3:1 begins with the word *Behold*. As you begin this study, take a moment to *Behold* what it means to be a child (son) of God. Write a prayer thanking God for all that He has bestowed upon you. Ask Him to cause you to live your life. In an *attitude of gratitude* in reflection of the changes He has made and is continuing to make in your life. Ask Him also to grant you greater understanding of the awesome privilege of being called *children of God* (NAS). Then, express your desire to bring honor to your heavenly Father in response to His great love for you.

*Order my steps in Thy Word,
and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*

Psalm 119:133

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 3:1

1. The first two chapters of I John deal with the *fellowship* with God and the *assurance* that a Christian has with God. Now, the last three chapters deal with the *sonship* (relationship) that a Christian has with God, his heavenly *Father*. What does John tell us to *Behold* in I John 3:1?
 - a. Write I John 3:1a in your own words.
 - b. See *how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God.* (I John 3:1 NASB) *Behold* (gaze intently) on this *great love* through the following verses:
 - 1.) Jeremiah 31:3
 - 2.) John 3:16
 - 3.) Romans 5:8
 - 4.) Relate a few of the ways God's love is different from that of the world.
 - c. List a few of the resources available to us *as His sons* (children).
2. One effect of the bestowal of God's love is that *we should be called the sons of God.* *Called* here means *named*. God has *named* us His children. He gladly claims us as His. *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.* (John 1:12) When you think about a parent adopting a child, what are some of the privileges that parent is granting to that child?
 - a. What does it mean to you that God has adopted you and named you His child, allowing you to address Him as *Father*?
 - 1.) Write your birth announcement using I John 3:1 as your Birth Certificate.
3. The word *knoweth* used in I John 3:1c indicates the world does not *understand* us. Why does the world not *know* (understand) us?
 - a. How does this help you understand an unbeliever's reaction or rejection?
 - b. Being a *child of God* means that we share *the very nature of God*. What does II Peter 1:4 say about this?

- c. Since we share the very nature of God and the world does not know Him, explain as you would to a new Christian why they are experiencing rejection and feel misunderstood by those who are not believers.

The Love of God

*Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.
Selah*

-Lehman

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 3:2-3

1. *Beloved, now we are the sons of God...* this is a statement of assurance! *For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we really are God's children. And since we are His children, we will share His treasures - for all God gives to His Son Jesus is now ours too.* (Romans 8:16, 17a TLB) STOP! Meditate once more on the incredible love of God revealed in this verse. Then, take a moment to express in writing what it means to you to know that you are a Child of God.

2. Write I John 3:2 phrase by phrase. Underline or highlight what *we shall be* when He shall appear.
 - a. In all the rush, stresses, and busyness of your days, pause to linger here and gaze on the glorious future revealed in these words *we shall be like Him*. How does this comfort, encourage, refresh, renew, and bless you today?

 - b. How do the following scriptures confirm that one day we will be like Jesus?
 - 1.) Psalm 17:15

 - 2.) 1 Corinthians 15:49

 - 3.) Philippians 3:21a

(a.) According to I John 3:2c what will cause this transformation?

Challenge: Observe and briefly record who we are and what we shall be from Romans 8:14-23.

*What we are now is a guarantee, in a sense, of what we are going to be.
Our sonship is in itself a guarantee of our glorification because
God never starts a work and then gives it up.*

-Martin Lloyd Jones

He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ

-Philippians 1:6b

3. I John 3:3 speaks of *hope*. The *hope* of a Christian does not carry the same meaning as the definition that the world gives. It is not simply an anticipation of something that *might happen*. It is a confident expectation of something that we *know*, is going to happen. What a wonderful difference! Define in your own words *hope* from the above explanation.

a. What is the *hope* referred to in I John 3:3? (Answer from verse 2)

1.) What affect does this *hope* have on us?

2.) Look up the word *purify* in the dictionary. What does it mean to *purify* oneself?

3.) Who is our example of purity?

4.) What does II Corinthians 7:1 instruct us to do?

(a.) Observe this *purifying hope* from Titus 2:13, 14. Write the guidelines from Titus 2:(11) 12 that teach you how to walk in the light of that *hope*.

(b.) Share other scriptures that enable you to walk in purity.

4. A great weakness in the church is the failure to recognize *who we are* and *what we are*. John has been very careful to encourage the believers in an all they have because they have Christ. Identify *who* and *what* you are in Christ.

a. How does knowing who you are now and knowing that one day you will be transformed into the image of Jesus, not only have a purifying effect on your life but encourage you when the trials or failures of the moment seem so difficult?

*Keep us, Lord, O keep us cleaving to Thyself, and still believing,
Till the hour of our receiving promised joys with Thee.*

T. Kelly

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 3:4-6

1. *Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness.* (I John 3:4a AMP) Define *sin* from I John 3:4b.

a. *Sin is more than a well-intentioned falling short of God's requirements. Sin is essentially anarchy, rejection of God's authority and active rebellion against God.* A habitual sinner - one who *practices* sin (verse 4) shows utter disregard for God's moral laws. What are the wages of sin? (Romans 5:23)

Challenge: How is *committing sin a transgression of the law*?

b. According to Romans 3:23 and James 2:10 who is guilty of breaking the law of God?

2. According to I John 3:5 why was Jesus manifested? (Why did He come?)
 - a. The Lord Jesus knew sin to be so evil, that He came into our world to suffer and die on the cross to redeem *us* from it. How should this affect the way we look at sin?
 - 1.) *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* I Timothy 1:15 How does this verse and I John 3:5 encourage you in those times when you feel like you are the chief of all sinners?

3. I John 3:5 states that there is no sin in Jesus. Looking back to our study of I John 1:8 we learned that *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* Jesus Christ is the only one who can claim to have no sin. What do the following scriptures reveal about Christ's sinlessness:
 - a. II Corinthians 5:21
 - b. Hebrews 7:(22) 26

4. In I John 3:6, the words *abideth* and *sinneth* are in the present tense. A verb in the present tense indicates a continuous, habitual action. The character of a person is revealed by his habitual actions, not the occasional ones. Therefore, the literal Greek translation is *everyone who in Him is constantly abiding is not habitually sinning.* This verse does not mean that Christians never sin. It means that they do not live a consistently sinful lifestyle, and... if and when they sin, they recognize it as sin and acknowledge their sin and confess and repent. Why would someone who is *abiding in Christ* not be living in a lifestyle of sin?
 - a. Recall what I John 2:14b says about this.

*This passage does not teach the impossibility of sin,
but the incompatibility of sin with our new nature.*

5. Print what I John 3:6b states about the person who is continually, habitually practicing sin.
 - a. Some Christians think that because salvation frees them from the penalties of sin, they can live any way they please. How does I John 3:6 refute that thinking?
 - 1.) What does James 4:(7) 8 tell you to do if you are tempted to believe this?
 - (a.) James 1:8 describes a double minded man as unstable in all his ways. How would this relate to Christians who believe they can live as they please?
 - b. How has *knowing Him* (Greek word is *gnosko*, to know by experience) kept you from a lifestyle of sin?
 - 1.) Share a practical example if not too personal.

*Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.*

-Doerksen

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 3:7-10

1. Observe the striking contrast between the *children of God* and the *children of the devil* as you complete the following chart from I John 3:7-10:

Children of God	Children of the devil
vs. 7	
vs. 8	
vs. 9	
vs. 10	

2. Write the warning to the *little children* from I John 3:7a.
 - a. The deception that was prevalent in the First Century church is also a problem in churches today. Pseudo Christians were trying to convince the believers that a person could be born again and still practice sin. How does John clearly counter that lie? I John 3:7b
 - b. *Righteous* character expresses itself in *righteous* conduct. *Righteousness here means the righteous life which is the result of salvation through Christ.* How has a believer been made righteous? Romans 5:17-19 Use another version if you have one.

1.) If we have been made righteous how will we live our lives according to I John 3:7b?

*Christians, aware that they are children of God and destined for heaven,
will live lives of practical righteousness.*

3. Compare I John 3:8a to John 8:44. How is the *devil* described?
4. How are those described who *commit* (practice) *sin*? (Again. the Greek verb tense here indicates continual sin.)
 - a. Ephesians 2:2,3
 - b. Colossians 1:21
5. According to I John 3:8b why was the *Son of God manifested*?
 - a. The word *destroy* does not speak of annihilating, but rather to deprive of force, render inoperative. One day the devil will be cast into the Lake of Fire and forever banned from us and God. Until then, the devil has been loosed of his grip on the believer. According to the following verses, how has Satan’s grip been loosed?
 - 1.) Colossians 2:(13, 14) 15
 - 2.) Hebrews 2:14b

6. I John 3:9 is written in contrast to verse 8. Just as the one who is of the devil cannot do righteousness, a true believer cannot commit (practice; live in a lifestyle of) sin. Matthew 7:18 declares *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.* According to I John 3:9b, why does one who is *born of God* not commit (practice) *sin*?

a. The seed planted is a result of being *born of God*. What is the purpose of planting a seed?

1.) What is God's purpose for planting His seed in you? Support your answer with scripture, if possible.

7. I John 3:10 summarizes today's focus by proclaiming the difference between those who are *children of God* and those who are *children of the devil*. According to this verse, what is the difference?

a. This verse can either strike terror to our hearts or fortify our assurance that we are God's children. Share how I John 3:7-10 fortifies your assurance,

The expression of Christian character is not good doing, but God-likeness. If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit divine characteristics in your life, not good human characteristics. God's life in us expresses itself as God's life, not as human life trying to be godly.

- Oswald Chambers

SIXTH DAY:

Review I John 3:1-10

1. In what way has I John 3:1a, 2 drawn you into a dearer relationship with the Father and the Son?
2. The world does not understand us. Family resemblance is sure to show. What did you believe about Christians or Christianity before you came to Christ that you now know is not true?
3. I John 3:3 has been called a *quickenning incentive* to live a pure life. From the following scriptures, what should deter us from practicing a lifestyle of sin?
 - a. I John 3:1a
 - b. I John 3:2, 3
 - c. I John 3:5
 - d. I John 3:8
 - e. I John 3:9

4. Contrast the purposes and character of the devil with the purposes and character of Christ.

5. A child of God does not habitually commit sin. However, he will fall into sin occasionally. Pastor Chuck says, *Sinning is miserable for the Christian. We are what we are by nature. That's why we need a new nature.* Comment on this statement and how you have found it to be true in your life.
 - a. Heredity and environment mold children. As Christians we have the right heredity. How much does our environment influence or contribute to our purity?

6. How has the study of I John 3:1-10 assured you of the power you have to walk in righteousness and given you the desire to do so?

7. Write a sentence, a poem, or choose a song that expresses what it means to you to be called a child of God.

*O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy sweetness, Come in Thy fullness,
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.
T. Chisholm*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 3:11-18

Lesson 15

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 3:1-10. One of the wonderful expressions of God's love which has *been bestowed upon us* is that we are *called the children (sons) of God*. What comes to your mind when you dwell on this incredible privilege?
 - a. How does knowing you are *a child of God* affect the way you live?
 - b. One day we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ *face to face*. We shall gaze upon (*behold*) Him and He shall gaze upon us. What do you want that experience to be like?
 - 1.) How are you *purifying* your life as a result of this *hope* (confident expectation)?
 - a. The *children of God* cannot practice a lifestyle of sin. Those who are *children of the devil* cannot practice a lifestyle of righteousness. What makes this amazing difference?
2. John continues his contrast of the *children of God* with the *children of the devil*. He returns to *the message we have heard from the beginning*; the command to *love one another*. The expression of love through deeds reveals those who are truly children of God, for God's agape love cannot be manifested without the residing power of the Holy Spirit. Read I John 3:11-18 and note the key thoughts of this paragraph division.
3. I John 3:11 begins with the commandment that *we should love one another*. Last week we *beheld the love that God has bestowed upon us*. Now, we are reminded of the necessity to express that same love to others. Before you begin this study, *behold the manner of love the Father has bestowed upon you*. Proclaim in a prayer your appreciation for that love and your desire to walk in that love as you interact with others. Ask God to reveal to you practical ways that you can express love to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts.

I Peter 1:22 TLB

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SECOND DAY:

Read I John 3:11, 12

1. We have studied in I John 2:7-11 and I John 3:10 the importance of living in the message we have *heard from the beginning* and we will study it again as we continue to examine this wonderful book of I John. What is *the message that we have heard from the beginning?* v. 11
 - a. We have learned from I John 3:9 that *God's seed in us* enables us to walk righteously and enables us to love one another. One might ask, "If this is true, then why does John keep commanding us to love? Shouldn't this *love for one another* just come naturally?" Why do you think that we must be reminded to *love one another*?
 - b. *God's seed in us* gives us the will and the power to love (Philippians 2:13), but we must take the action. John encourages us to cultivate the seed within us and inspires us to live life in conformity with our new nature. Share how we do this.
 - c. Tradition tells us that when John was at a very old age, he was often asked to give a word in various churches. His message was always the same, *My little children, love one another*. Why do you think this was so very important to John?
2. In I John 3:12 John tells us how we are *not* to love. Who does he use as an example?
 - a. Read Genesis 4:1-12 and summarize the account of Cain and Abel.

1.) What does Hebrews 11:4 tell us about Abel's offering?

2.) Scripture does not specifically tell us why God rejected Cain's offering. God must have given Cain and Abel some instructions regarding this offering. Since faith is a response to a revelation of God, Abel apparently responded to what God had told him; Cain apparently did not. Cain, like many today, seemed to try to reach God according to his own way. I John 3:12 instructs us not to be like Cain. Complete the following chart by contrasting Cain's motives and actions as you see them in Genesis 4:5-11 and I John 3:12 with the love John commands in I John 3:11 using I Corinthians 13:4-6:

Cain	I Corinthians 12:4-6

(a.) How is Cain an example of how not to love?

3. *Cain was of the wicked one: and his works were evil.* John 3:12 John reminds us that a believer will not react like Cain. Those of the *wicked one* walk in self-love while those who walk in righteousness walk in love for others and have pure motives. Describe what you think the progression of Cain's thoughts were that led to murder.

_____ → _____ → _____ → _____ → murder

- a. The believer is not exempt from impure thoughts but has been given the resources to stop this progression. Underline from the following verse our part in reacting to the temptation to sin:

If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you not well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it. Genesis 4:7 NASB

- 1.) Explain how we master sin. If possible, use scriptures to support your answer.

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 3:13,14

1. According to I John 3:13 what did John tell the believers?
- a. *Marvel not*, (do not think it so unusual, do not be surprised) ... *if the world hate you*. John had just pointed out the fact that Cain hated Abel, his brother. Now he reminds us that we are not to think it strange if the world hates us in the same manner. According to the following scriptures why does *the world hate* believers:
- 1.) Matthew 24:9
- 2.) John 15:18, 19
2. God's children who walk in righteousness convict and shame *the world*. If we love with God's love the world will often hate us, because we make them painfully aware of their self-serving way of living. God's love, unlike all other forms of love is *other* centered rather than *self* centered. How do the following scriptures describe God's love in action:
- a. Romans 12: 10
- b. Galatians 5:13b
- c. Colossians 3:13
- 1.) How would applying these verses to our lives display the difference between us and those *of the world*?
- 2.) Consider the following questions:
What is the difference between the love of believers and the world's love?
Are we different in the ways that we withhold love?
Or are we different only in the ways that we express it?
What does the world specifically see in Christians that it does not see in itself?
What does the world see in you?
Share your response to one of these questions.

3. Jesus, in His prayer to the Father (John 17) in behalf of all believers, acknowledges the hatred that the world has for us. He expresses His desire *that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them*. Why is this so important? John 17:21b

4. How do we know that *we have passed from death unto life*? I John 3:14

a. What do the following scriptures say about this incredible transition:

1.) John 5:24

2.) Colossians 1:13

5. Often, we allow for gray areas between love and not loving (hate). We settle for being somewhere in the middle and justify our actions (or lack of them) because we are not actually intending them ill will. Where would you place yourself on the following scale as far as your reaction toward others:

love.....hate

However, John does not leave us any gray area. He describes love and hate in very black and white terms. Those who *love are of God* and those who *hate are of the devil*. He does not even use the word *hate* in I John 3:14b. He uses the phrase *loveth not* (does not express God's love). John would draw his scale like this:

love | hate

a. If you used John's scale to classify your reactions (or lack, of them), how would this change your life?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3:15,16

1. From I John 3:15 write the one word that describes a person who *hateth his brother*.

a. What does I John 3:15b say about *murderers* (those who hate)?

b. The verb *hateth* is *in* the present tense indicating a continual choosing to hate. A Christian may have occasional incidents of anger or hatred, but because these would cause a believer to be out of fellowship with the Lord, the believer will be miserable in that state and will choose to flee from those reactions. What actions are we to take when we find ourselves dealing with anger or hatred toward another according to the following scriptures:

1.) Psalm 37:8

2.) II Corinthians 10:(4) 5

3.) Add others if you wish

2. I John is a book of contrasts. I John 3:15, 16 pronounce the supreme contrast. Cain's hatred and jealousy resulted in murder; Christ's love resulted in self-sacrifice. In distinguishing from those who *murder*, how does I John 3:16 describe the truest expression of *love*?
 - a. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* John 15:13 How is this the ultimate proof of God's love?

3. What example should we be following in the expression of our love? I John 3:16c

*The self-sacrifice of Christ is not just a revelation of love to be admired;
it is an example to copy. – John Stott*

- a. Secular history observes the behavior of Christians by stating, *Behold, how they love one another, they are ready to die for one another.* Eusebius says of Christians, *in a time of plague they visited one another, and not only hazarded their lives, but actually lost them in their zeal to preserve the lives of others.* The act of *laying down our lives*, not only describes a willingness to die for another, it can be expressed in several ways. What are some practical ways that we can *lay down our lives* for one another as an expression of God's love?
 - 1.) What are some of the things that hinder us from *laying down our lives for the brethren*?
 - (a.) What can we do to overcome these things?

 - 2.) In addition to the sacrifice of His life on the cross, in what other ways did Jesus lay down His life? Philippians 2:7

*Oh, how He loves you and me! Oh, how He loves you and me!
He gave His life, what more could He do?
Oh, how He loves you. Oh, how He loves me,
Oh, how He loves you and me!*

Kurt Kaiser

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 3:17, 18

1. Write I John 3:17 phrase by phrase.

a. Describe the phrase *shutteth up his bowels of compassion* in your own words.

1.) From Proverbs 21:13 what are the consequences of *stopping our ears at the cry of the poor*?

2.) What does God promise to those who care for the poor? Isaiah 58:(7) 8, 9a

b. Define who John is speaking to by filling in the blanks of I John 3:17a:

But whoso _____ *and* _____
_____

1.) John is describing those who have the necessities of life such as food, clothing, and shelter. *Seeth*, is not referring to a hasty glance, but means to deliberately contemplate, to be made aware of. Take a moment to ask God to search your heart. Has He made you aware of someone in need? If He has, how will you respond?

*So then while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men,
and especially to those who are of the household faith.*

Galatians 6:10 NASB

2. What is John's question regarding those who *shut up their bowels of compassion*?
I John 3:17c

a. What does James 2:14-17 add to this?

3. *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.* I
John 3:18 Explain the difference between loving in *word* and loving in *deed*?

a. Romans 12:10, 13 specifies how we are to treat one another. Read this portion of scripture and note the areas that have spoken to your heart about your behavior towards others. Use another version if you have one.

*But if someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well,
and sees a brother in need, and won't help him – how can God's love be within him?*

I John 3:17 TLB

SIXTH DAY:

Review I John 3:11-18

1. I John is a book of assurance. What have you learned from I John 3:11 -18 that would assure you that you *have passed from death unto life*?
2. I John is also a book of contrasts. How is the love of a believer different from the love of *the world*?
3. What is the ultimate expression of love?
 - a. In what ways might we be asked to *lay down our lives* (not only for those outside our home, but also for our spouses and children)?

Personal: Is God calling you to *lay down your life* in a specific area in your home? How will you respond?

4. Share a time you had a need and God used a brother or sister to meet that need?
5. It is easy to profess love. What are some common excuses that we use for not expressing our love through deeds?
 - b. Which of the above excuses are legitimate?
 - 1.) Which ones are you going to stop using?

6. How are you going to apply what you have learned through your study this week?

7. Diligently commit your desire to change unto the Lord. Ask Him to reveal to you ways that you can love others. Ask Him to make love and hate black and white to you; and cause you to choose love. Be prepared to share next week the difference this has made both in your life and in the lives of others around you.

*Love one another for love is of God,
He who loves is born of God, and knows God.
He who does not love does not know God,
For God is love – God is love.
Love bears all things, believes all things.
Love hopes all things, endures all things.*

J. Detweiller

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 3:19-24

Lesson 16

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 3:11-18. *Love one another* is the message that we have heard from the beginning. We are to react as Christ reacted to others, not as Cain did. Cain's reaction resulted in murder. What was God's ultimate expression of His love?
 - a. In last week's lesson you were instructed to ask the Lord to reveal to you ways you could love others. What difference has choosing love made in your life and in the lives of others?
 - b. How will you continue to apply this command to *love one another*?
 - 1.) According to I John 3:14, what can we know if we are living a lifestyle of *loving one another*?
 - 2.) According to I John 3:17, what can we know if we are continually *shutting up our bowels of compassion* towards those in need when we have the ability to meet those needs?
2. In last week's study of I John 3:11-18, John wrote of a standard by which we might know that we have *passed from death unto life*. Evaluation of this standard will lead some to assurance of their salvation and others to doubt. John comforts and encourages the true children of God in the ensuing verses of I John 3:19-24. Summarize the thoughts of this paragraph division.
3. We live in a time of uncertainty. I John teaches us many things that we can be sure of. As believers, we do not need to doubt God's love for us. We do not have to wonder if we have passed from death unto life. We need not question the power of prayer. Consider the *confidence* that the believer has knowing these things. Write a prayer thanking God that He has not left you uncertain concerning spiritual essentials but has granted you the advantage of *confidence*. Ask Him to increase that *confidence* as you study this wonderful portion of His Word.

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience ...*

Hebrews 10:22 NIV

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 3:19

1. I John 3:19 states that we can know we *are of the truth*. The word *hereby* indicates that John is continuing his thoughts from the last paragraph division. We studied last week in I John 3:14 that we can *know that we have passed from death unto life*. Keeping this in mind, how can we *know we are of the truth*?
 - a. What does the phrase *we are of the truth* mean? See John 14:6.
2. What is the result of knowing *we are of the truth*?
 - a. Define the word *assure*.
 - b. How will loving others in deed and in truth (I John 3:18) *assure our hearts before Him*?
 - c. Why is it so important to have *assurance* in our walk with God?
3. *This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence*. I John 3:19 NIV We can be confident in the very presence of God. What is the basis of our *confidence* according to the following scriptures:
 - a. Hebrews 10:19
 - b. I John 2:1
 - 1.) We have been granted free access to God through our faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Share what it means to you to know you can come before His presence with an assured heart.

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 3:20

4. I John 3:20 begins with the reaction that many have when they reflect upon how they have not expressed love towards others. How does John describe that response of the heart?
 - a. The Greek word translated as *condemn* here is *kataginosko*. This is taken from two root words, *kata*, meaning against and *ginosko* which means *to know by experience*. Our hearts know us by experience, and many declare things against us. Many are aware that they don't love others as they should. They feel guilty and their hearts (consciences) accuse them. In examining I John 3:17, 18, if your heart condemns you, what should you do? Use the following scriptures to help you answer:
 - 1.) I John 1:9
 - 2.) I John 3:18
 - b. Often, when we have failed, our hearts persuade us that we are unworthy of coming before the Father. What is revealed in Jeremiah 17:9 about our heart?
 - 1.) Who also *accuses day and night*? Revelation 12:9, 10
 - 2.) I John 3:20 declares that God *is greater than our heart*. I John 4:4 reminds us that God is also *greater than he that is in the world*. How does this comfort you?

5. God not only sees our actions (or lack of them) but He knows our very hearts. Record what the following scriptures say about how well God knows us:
 - a. Psalm 69:5
 - b. Psalm 139:2
 - c. Hebrews 4:12, 13
 - 1.) Does this strike fear in your heart or does it bring comfort? What would make the difference in how we react to reading the above verses'?
6. A lack of love in our lives produces a conviction from our hearts, a sense of guilt. Satan amplifies that conviction through a condemnation that declares our unworthiness. God uses that conviction to drive us to Himself in repentance and give us a desire to change. How can you allow God's conviction to work in your life instead of succumbing to Satan's condemnation?
7. What do we know about God's heart towards us according to the following scriptures:
 - a. Psalm 34:18
 - b. Psalm 103:13 (use another version if you have one)
 - c. Jeremiah 31:3
 - 1.) How do these verses help you understand how God reacts when your *heart condemns* you?

*My flesh and my heart faileth;
But God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.
... it is good for me to draw near to God ...*

Psalm 73:26, 28a

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3:21, 22

1. According to I John 3:21, what can we have *if our hearts condemn us not*?
 - a. Record some synonyms for the word *confidence*.
 - 1.) The words *if our heart condemn us not* do not claim sinless perfection, but represent the heart attitude of a believer that, so far as he knows, has no unconfessed sin in his life. The opposite result of a *condemning heart* is *confidence*. When we have been released from a sense of guilt, we feel the freedom to approach God as His beloved children. How does a child who is aware of how loved he is approach his father?
 - 2.) From the following verses how is our access to the father described:
 - (a.) Ephesians 3:12
 - (b.) Hebrews 4:16

2. Having a *confidence toward God* is one result of being able to *assure our hearts before Him* and of *our hearts condemning us not*. According to I John 3:22a what is another amazing benefit?
 - a. What does I John 3.22b reveal are the conditions for receiving that which we have asked of Him?
 - 1.) What do the following verses add to this:
 - (a.) Psalm 66:18
 - (b.) John 9:31
 - (c.) John 15:7
 - 2.) From the following verses what further requirements does God have for responding to our prayers:
 - (a.) Mark 11:24, 25
 - (b.) John 16:23
 - 3.) Summarize these conditions that God has placed on answering prayer.
 - (a.) Which one(s) is most difficult for you to do and why?
 - (b.) If you feel you have met these conditions, yet have not received the answer you desired, what could be some of the reasons for this?
3. Doing *those things that are pleasing in His sight* (I John 3:22c) bends the ear of our Father towards us and gives us confidence in prayer. What are some things you can do that are *pleasing in His sight*?

*When our delight is in the love of God,
Our desires will be in the will of God.*

Warren Wiersbe

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 3:23, 24

1. I John 3:22 states two conditions of prayer as *keeping His commandments* and *doing those things that are pleasing in His sight*. The full commandment of God is not simply loving the brethren. From I John 3:23 what else are commanded to do?
 - a. What are we believing when we *believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ*?
 - 1.) Why is this essential to answered prayer?

2. Compare the commandment in I John 3:23b from Jesus' conversation with the lawyer as recorded in Matthew 22:35-40.

Challenge: Why do *all the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments*?

3. What does I John 3:24a declare is the prerequisite for dwelling in Christ and He dwelling in us?
 - a. What does Jesus say in John 14:15 is proof of our *love* for Him?
 - 1.) Ponder the privilege of expressing your love for Jesus through obeying His commandments. Why should obedience not be a grievous burden to us?
 - a. Explain as you would to a new believer what it means to dwell in Him and He in you.

Challenge: Record what Psalm 91 and John 15 tell us about the relationship of *abiding* (dwelling).

4. We have studied in the past two chapters the importance of *keeping His commandments* and *loving others* as determining factors in our relationship with God. Now, John concludes chapter 3 with yet another evidence of *abiding*. According to I John 3:24b, how can we know that *He abideth in us*?
 - a. How do we know we have the Holy Spirit residing in us according to:
 - 1.) I Corinthians 3:16
 - 2.) Galatians 4:6
 - b. Think about this gift. What an awesome difference this makes in our lives. This makes us unlike all others who do not believe in Jesus Christ. We have the Holy Spirit living in us! Share the delight this brings to your heart.
 - c. In what ways has the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in your life that assure you that you truly belong to God?

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you
A slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.
And by Him we cry, "Abba Father."
The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
Romans 8:15, 16 NIV*

SIXTH DAY:

Review I John 3:19-24

1. John begins and ends this paragraph division with the phrase *and hereby we know*. What are some of the assuring statements in this portion?
 - a. What are they conditioned upon?

2. What condemnation or conviction might some be experiencing after reading I John 3:11-18?
 - a. Consider the saying, "Feelings make great passengers, but they make poor drivers". Often, we can say the same thing about our hearts or consciences. What should be our response when *our heart condemns us*?

Personal: Meditate on the joy of having *confidence toward God*. Is there anything in your life that is hindering you from having that confidence? If so, take a moment to confess it to the Lord and express your desire to change and to walk in obedience.

3. If you are keeping the commandments in I John 3:23 and you still feel condemned, what can you know about this kind of condemnation and what will you do about it?

4. How has this study spoken to you about having confidence towards God?

5. *And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us ... The fruit of the Spirit is love ... By this all men know that ye are my disciples, if we have love one to another.* (I John 3:24b, Galatians 5:22a, John 13:35) Love is the evidence to believers and to the world of the reality of Jesus Christ. Make the following your prayer as you choose to do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

*Holy Spirit glorify Jesus through me.
Just take my life and make it all Thine.
Glorify Jesus through me all the time.
May they see You, God, so pure and so kind.
When they look at my life,
May it be You that they find.
May it be You that they see.
Glorify Jesus through me.*

TBD

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 4:1-12

Lesson 17

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 3:19-24. Share specific ways these verses are operative in your life today.
 - a. One of the deepest desires of most Christians is to learn more about prayer. What do you discover about prayer in this passage? Use I John 3:21, 22 as a guideline for your answer.
 - 1) Meditate on I John 3:22 for a few moments. Memorize it, if possible. Print it on a card and/or post-a-note. Read it over and over and let it impact your life. What is this verse saying to you personally today about your prayers?
2. Note and mark the paragraph divisions of I John 4:1-12 and identify the subject of each of them:
 - a. I John 4:1- 6
 - b. I John 4:7-12
3. Have you ever wondered how Christians could fall prey to false teachers and end up in a cult? Often it is because they do not recognize the spirit behind the speaker. The first six verses of I John 4 supply criterion whereby believers can detect false teaching. The second part of this week's study, I John 4:7-12, emphasizes in a fresh way the importance of our loving one another. We need to understand, embrace, and act upon the instruction in this passage. Write a prayer asking the Lord to enable you to do this in your study of this lesson. Thank Him for His word which guides us and His love for us in giving His Son to die for us.

*And this is the confidence that we have in Him,
that if we ask anything according to His will,
He heareth us: and if we know that He heareth us,
whatsoever we ask, we know that
we have the petitions that we desired of Him
I John 6:14, 16*

SECOND DAY: Read I John 4:1-3

1. John opened his exhortation in I John 4:1 with the word *beloved*. This word expressed God's love for those believers as well as John's love. You, too, are *beloved* of God and He wants to speak to you through His Word today just as powerfully as He did to these first century Christians. What does I John 4:1a tell believers to do?
 - a. The word *try* is translated *test* in other versions of the Bible. The believers were to *test the spirits*. *Spirits* here refers to human beings such as teachers, pastors, evangelists activated either by demons or by the Holy Spirit. Why were they to *test the spirits*?
I John 4:1-3
 - 1) Notice the word *many* concerning these *false prophets*. They not only abounded in the first century, but they abound also in this 21st century.
Describe them from II Corinthians 11:13-15.
 - (a.) Observe these false prophets or deceivers from II Peter 2:1-3. What do you see?
2. According to I John 4:2, 3 what is the *test* whereby we can know whether or not teachers are true or false?
 - a. There are other tests we can apply to determine whether or not teachers are of God's truth, but the most important is *what they believe about Christ*. If they do not *confess* (bear witness) that *Jesus Christ is come in the flesh-that* is that Jesus Christ is God come to earth in a physical body - they are not of God. *Confesseth* means more than an inward acknowledgement, it means we publicly acknowledge that He is Christ. Affirm this from Romans 10:9,10.
 - 1) What do we learn from I John 4:3b about *this spirit*?
 - 2) Record what II John 7 reveals about this.
 - (a.) How are we to deal with these *deceivers* who try to bring this doctrine into our home? II John (8, 9) 10, 11
3. Look back on I John 4:1. Who is responsible for applying this test?
 - a. I John 4:1-6 challenges us to use our heads as well as our hearts. It is not God's will that His children be deceived or gullible. There are counterfeiters and deceivers that infiltrate the body. If we are going to be kept from deception, we must be able to detect false teaching such as the denial of the deity of Christ and the inspiration of the Scripture. How will applying the test of I John 4:(1) 2, 3 keep you from being deceived by one of these counterfeit Christs? (Antichrist can mean either against Christ or a counterfeit Christ).

Challenge: What other *tests* can we apply to ascertain the genuineness of the message and the messenger? Support your answer with Scripture.

*I have no greater
JOY
than to hear that My children walk in truth.*

III John 4

THIRD DAY: Read I John 4:4-6

1. Christians in John's time were exposed to the assaults of false teachers. How does I John 4:4 assure the believers that they have the victory over these deceivers? (The *them* in verse 4 refers to the false teachers.) Write your answer phrase by phrase from I John 4:4. Underline or highlight and memorize if possible, I John 4:4b.

a. Define the word *overcome*.

1) Where does the power to resist these false teachers and doctrines come from?

b. If a Christian today is frightened or overwhelmed when confronted by one of these clever deceivers, how would relying on I John 4:4 encourage and assure him he need not fall prey to these men's deceptive teachings?

c. In light of I Timothy 4:1 how will you apply this I John 4:4 truth when you are being exposed to false teachers?

2. Take a closer look at the false teachers and the true apostles by filling out the following chart from I John 4:5,6a:

False Teachers – v 5	The True Teachers – v 6
e. They are	a. We are
f. therefore	a. he that
g. and	a. he that is not

a. The phrase *they are of the world* reveals the source of the false teachers' message. Who is the inspiration behind the deceivers' speaking? John 14:30

1) How does this help us understand why those *who are not of God* will not listen to the truth? I John 4:6

b. Who is the inspiration behind the speakers of the truth? I John 4:6a

3. The phrase *hereby we know* appears twice in this passage. From I John 4:1-6 what have you learned that will enable you to recognize the *spirit of truth* and the *spirit of error*.

Challenge: Write a brief report on what various groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarianism, Mormonism, teach about Who Jesus is.

Whosoever believeth that Jesus Christ is the Christ
is born God ...

I John 5:1a

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 4:7-10

1. The emphasis in John's letter now shifts from *testing the spirits* to that of *loving one another*. Summarize these emphases by reviewing and writing I John 3:23.

2. Print in large block letters the opening phrase of I John 4:7. *Selah*
 - a. Stop! Realizing this is not just a fervent appeal from John but a command of Christ, how are you obeying this command today? Reflect on your relationships, friendships, and attitudes towards other members of the body of Christ in reference to this command. How are you putting this into practice when you're offended, upset or crushed?

3. Ponder I John 4:7, 8. What do you learn about the origin and nature of this *love*? *Selah*

verse 7: Love is _____

verse 8: God is _____

 - a. Why do you think John links *loving others* with *knowing God*?

4. How did God manifest or demonstrate His love for us? I John 4:9
 - a. Read this paraphrase of I John 4:10: *In this act we see what real love is; it is not our love for God, but His love for us when He sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice, that paid the penalty for our sin.* Define the phrase *Herein is love* (I John 4:10a) by describing this *love* in your own words from I John 4:9, 10.

 - b. Did we deserve this love or do anything to earn this love? Support your answer with Scripture.
 - 1) What does this say to you about the kind of *love* and quality of *love* we are to have for one another?
 - (a.) Do you feel this is impossible in the natural? You're right! It's supernatural. Recall once more how this *love* is produced in our lives from Romans 5:5b.

 - (b.) Since love is the fruit of the indwelling Spirit, what might not loving others indicate about a person? See John 15:5b; Galatians 5:22

5. Share an insight on loving others that you have gleaned from I John 4:7-10.

*Amazing love! How can it be
that 'Thou my God should die for me?
-Sagina*

FIFTH DAY: I John 4:11. 12

1. What do you learn from I John 4:11 about our response to God's love?
 - a. Reflect on the phrase, *God so loved us*. Intently gaze on that love revealed in I John 4:9, 10. List as many qualities of love as you can think of revealed in that *love*.
 - b. In what way does God's love for you motivate you to love others?
 - c. What things hinder or cause us to resist loving others as the Word teaches us to do?
 - 1) What should we be doing about that in the light of I John 4:11?
 - d. Share practical ways we can communicate this love (agape) for others.
2. Record what I John 4:12a reveals about God.
 - a. Read John 14:9,10 and tell how Jesus revealed the Father's nature to us.
 - b. *The God Whom no one has seen is seen in those who love others*. How does our loving *one another* (as God loves us) reveal God to others?
3. Record the two results of loving one another revealed in I John 4:12b: (Use other versions if you desire.)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c. According to I John 4:12 we recognize that God has not only done something **for** us but He has done something **in** us. To think that God dwells within us and that through His indwelling presence His love is *perfected* or *matured* in us is an awesome reality. Are you aware of this glorious indwelling presence of God? What difference does it make in your relationships with others to recognize this?

4. So much of I John speaks to us about loving others. In what way does the perspective of I John 4:7-12 increase your desire to be obedient to Jesus' command to *love one another*?
 - a. Share any changes taking place in your life, no matter how small, in response to the emphasis on love that is urged in I John.

*Let the walls fall down
 Let the walls fall down
 Let the walls fall down
 By His love Let the walls fall down

 In His love, no walls between us
 In His love a common ground
 Kneeling at the cross of Jesus
 All our pride comes tumbling down
 Batstone, A. Barbour & J. Barbour*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 4:1-12

1. Identify the two essential subjects dealt with in I John 4:1-12.
 - a. Which of these two subjects, *testing the spirits* or *loving others*, do you sense you need to concentrate on more fully? Why?

2. Why is what we believe about Jesus Christ crucial to our salvation?
 - a. Using I John 4:2 as a guideline *confess* in writing what you believe about Jesus.

 - b. Why is the doctrine that is being espoused by these false teachers of I John 4:1, 3 so dangerous?

Challenge: I John 4:5b points out that these false teachers speak from the world's viewpoint. Cite a few present-day examples of this.

3. *In his conflicts with sin, temptation, or error (false teachers or false doctrine), the Christian should never despair, for his God will ensure him the victory.* Explain why this is true using I John 4:4.

4. The greatest expression and example of love known to mankind was revealed through Jesus' death on the cross. In response to that love we are to reach out to others with Calvary love. Symbolize this love by drawing a cross. Over the top write I John 4:7-12. On the vertical line write: *God is love*. On the horizontal line write: *Love one another*.
 - a. Often loving others requires us to lay down our rights, forgive, or make things right. What does the cross represent in your life as it pertains to loving others?

Recommended: View this love from Amy Carmichael's book: "It".

5. How does our love for others make the unseen God more visible to them?
 - a. Think of and share here specific actions you can take to put this love into practice.
 - b. Hebrews 10:24 NIV encourages us to *consider how we may spur (provoke κιν) one another on toward love and good deeds*. Give an example of how we can do this.
6. Write the verse, phrase, or passage that ministered to you the most powerfully through your study of I John 4:1-12 this week.

It should be remembered that even the best of people leave much to be desired, and we must not expect too much. We need to be very patient with the faults of others. The most perfect people in the world have many imperfections and so do we. And sometimes it is quite difficult for us to tolerate each other. Nobody will deny that the imperfections of others cause us a lot of inconvenience! Please understand about love. I am not asking from you a love which is tender and emotional. All I ask is that your will should choose to love, that you should make up your mind to love others regardless of your feelings.

'Let Go'
Penelon

Beloved, let us love one another.

I John 4:7a

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 4:13-21

Lesson 18

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 4:1-12. In what way has I John 4:1-6 awakened your awareness to test the source of all you hear, read, or watch?
 - a. Whom do you *confess* Jesus Christ is?
 - 1) Why do you think the false teachers of the first century and the false teachers of the 1990's have not wanted to acknowledge Jesus as God come in the flesh?
2. What difference has studying I John 4:7-12 made in your life on a daily basis?
3. Mark the paragraph divisions in I John 4:13-21 as follows and briefly record the key thought of each:
 - a. I John 4:13-16
 - b. I John 4:17-21
4. Have you ever wondered if you were truly a child of God? Has the thought of "the day of judgment" or the return of Christ ever filled you with fear? This week's study in I John 4:13-21 lays a solid foundation of assurance and confidence for believers that will once and for all dispel those doubts and fears. Start your study with a prayer. Ask the Lord to open your understanding of His Word. Ask Him also, to prepare your heart and mind to receive His truth. If tiredness and time are problems for you in doing the lesson, mention these in your prayer. Express your love for Him. Thank Him for the *assurance* and *confidence* He provides through His Word and express your desire to do those things that are *pleasing in His sight*. Write your prayer here.

*And whatsoever we ask,
we receive of Him,
because we keep His commandments,
and do those things that are pleasing in His sight
I John 3:22*

SECOND DAY: I John 4:13-16

1. By the time we arrive at these verses we are thoroughly convinced it is God's will that His children should *know*, (be assured), that they are His. Whom has He given us so that we *know* (ginosko) that *we dwell in Him, and He in us?* I John 4:13

a. Record what the following verses reveal about the Spirit:

1) John 14:26

2) I John 2:27

3) How does this encourage you?

2. The Holy Spirit convinces and assures us *that we dwell in Him and He in us*. What things substantiate that assurance?

a. I John 4:15

b. I John 4:16a

3. In I John 4:14 we have the personal testimony of John and the Apostles - an eye-witness account of the Savior. To capture the historical and spiritual reality of I John 4:14, parallel it with I John 1:1, 2 by filling in the right-hand column of the following chart:

I John 4:14	I John 1:1, 2
a. And we have seen	a.
b. And do testify	b.

1) Why did God send His Son into the world:

(a.) I John 4:14

(b.) John 3:16, 17

(c.) John 17:3

4. *The Holy Spirit within us to assure us we are a child of God. Our testimony of Who Christ is and our love (agap ) for others mark our faith as genuine.* Why do you think our assurance or knowing that He dwells in us and we dwell in Him is linked with our confession of Who Jesus is and our *knowing and believing the love that God hath to us?*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 4:17. 18

1. What does I John 4:17 say? Write this in your own words.
 - a. Concerning the phrase *Herein is our love made perfect* (complete), Pastor Chuck says: *Love (agapé) moves in a cycle. It begins in the heart of God, reaches into our hearts, and out to others, and then returns to God. (See I John 4:19). As it returns to God, it is made perfect or complete. (It accomplishes its goal or purpose.) Because our love is made perfect (complete). we have no fear of the day of judgment (Revelation 20:11). Rather than fear what does I John 4:17 say we may have?*
2. The phrase *as He is, so are we in this world* has two important aspects. The first aspect is revealed by the phrase (even) *as He*. *As He* (was in this world) so we are to be in this world. See this by writing what the following scriptures say about *As He*:

I John 1:7

I John 2:6

I John 3:2

I John 3:3

I John 3:23

3. The second aspect of *as He is, so are we in this world* refers to God's great love for the Son and for each of us. Thankfully contemplate the greatness of His love for you by reviewing I John 4:9, 10. Could anyone ever love you to that degree? If someone asked you how you know God loves you, how would you answer them?
4. What does I John 4:18a say about *perfect love*?
 - a. What does this verse reveal about *fear*?
5. Contrast this tormenting *fear* of I John 4:18 with the *boldness* of I John 4:17. What makes the difference?
 - a. In response to the truth of I John 4:17.18, If you have this *fear*, how will I John 4:16a help you?

*Loved with everlasting love, Led by grace that love to know -
Spirit, breathing from above, Thou hast taught me it is so!
O this full and perfect peace form His presence all divine -
In a love which cannot cease, I am His, and He is mine.*

George Robinson

FOURTH DAY: Read Psalm 23

1. God's *perfect love* at work in our hearts not only removes the fear of eternal punishment but releases us from tormenting fear in every area of our lives. We live in a time when *men's hearts are failing them for fear*. This is not God's plan for His children. He wants them to trust in His love and care for them. Look at this *love* by writing what the Lord our Shepherd does for us, His sheep, from Psalm 23:1-6:

Psalm 23:1

Psalm 23:2

Psalm 23:3

Psalm 23:4

Psalm 23:5

Psalm 23:6

2. Print in large block letters *what* Psalm 23:4 reveals about *fear* and His presence. Meditate on this in the light of God's indwelling presence revealed in I John 4:12b, 13, 15, 16.

I _____: _____ Thou _____.

- a. How does the realization of how much God loves you dispel *fear*?
3. In what area of your life does this Psalm minister most today?
 - a. How does God's *perfect love* at work in you help you let go of or drive out these fears?
 4. How does the portrait of God's love and care for you revealed in Psalm 23 enhance your understanding of I John 1:17, 18?

*If you only let God guide you
And hope in Him through all your ways,
He'll give you strength whatever happens
And take you through the evil days:
WHO TRUSTS IN GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE
Builds on the Rock that cannot move
George Robinson*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 4:19-21

1. What has the manifestation of God's love toward us through Christ produced in our life?
I John 4:(10), 19

- a. Write a love note of response to God for His love for you.

2. Read I John 4:20 and answer the question at the end of the verse.
 - a. Examine your heart in the searchlight of this verse. Why is love for God and hatred for other Christians incompatible?
 - 1) If a Christian who is struggling with this asks you for help with this, what advice would you give?
3. Write the commandment given in I John 4:21. (See also I John 3:23)
 - a. Who gave us this commandment?
 - 1) Take time to view the quality of this love from I Corinthians 13:4-7, use other versions if you desire. How does this help you define the kind of love we're supposed to have for one another?
 - 2) What do you do when you recognize your failure to love like this?

*The barrenness of busyness
results in lack of time
to cultivate the fruit of the indwelling Spirit
which is LOVE*

- selected

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 4:13-21

1. Underline or highlight the words *dwelleth* or *dwells* in I John 4:12b, 13, 15, 16. How does *knowing* God dwells or abides in you and you in Him give you assurance you are His child?
 - a. Is it not amazing that the eternal, holy God should choose to dwell within us? His indwelling presence guides us, directs us, and conforms us more and more into the likeness of Christ. Add to this list from I John 4:13-21 what His indwelling presence does in your life.

2. What do you learn about God through I John 4:13-21?
 - a. What does I John 4:14, 15 reveal about Jesus?
 - b. What does I John 4:13 reveal about the Spirit?
3. What do you learn about you from I John 4:13-21?
4. How does an awareness of God's love help you deal with tormenting fear?
 - a. In light of the love revealed through John 3:16, 17, why would a born-again believer have fear of the *day of judgment*?
5. What truth in I John 4:13-21 is most relevant to your life today?
6. How will you put this passage (I John 4:13-21) into practice?

*Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother-
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine,
Henry van Dyke*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5:1-5

Lesson 19

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 4:13-21. In what way does knowing God indwells you and you dwell in Him give you *assurance* and *confidence*?
 - a. Write Isaiah 41:10 phrase by phrase. Memorize it if possible.
 - 1) Explain the phrase. *I AM with you* by I John 4:13-16.
 - 2) Why are *fear* and *trust in God* incompatible?
2. Share how I John 4:13-21 makes a difference in your life today.
3. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in I John 5:1-5 and write the key thought of each using the word most repeated in each paragraph:
 - a. I John 5:1-3
 - b. I John 5:4, 5
4. The territory we will be covering this week (I John 5:1-5) will seem somewhat familiar to you as John succinctly summarizes the teaching of I John 1-4. He links loving God, loving others, and obedience to His commands with living the victorious Christian life. This lesson compels us to recognize the relationship between knowledge and practical application of it in our daily walk. Begin the lesson today with a prayer expressing your desires as you study His Word. Write your prayer here.

*Just tell me what to do
and I will do it, Lord.
As long as I live, I'll wholeheartedly obey.
-Psalm 119:33, 34 TLB*

SECOND DAY: Read I John 5:1-3

1. Compare the following version of I John 5:1 with the KJV: *Everyone who believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves His children as well.* Print from I John 5:1a what you must *believe* to be *born of God*.
 - a. *Christ* means the anointed of God, the *Messiah*. Who did Jesus say He was? John 4:25, 26

Challenge: Why is it necessary to *believe* Jesus is the Christ?

2. Notice the way John weaves the family together in I John 5:1b. If we love the Father whom will we also love?
 - a. There's no room for sibling rivalry in the family of God. To what degree did Jesus say we are to love others in Matthew 22:(37, 38) 39?
 - b. What do the following verses teach you about love for others?

- | | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Romans 5:5 | } | 1) Romans 12:10 |
| | | 2) Romans 13:8, 9 |
| | | 3) Romans 13:10 |
| John 15:5c | } | 4) Galatians 5:13c |
| | | 5) Ephesians 4:2(3) |
| | | 6) Ephesians 5:2 |
| | | 7) Take time to ponder these verses. Think about your <i>love for others</i> in relationship to these verses. Share an insight on love you've gained through these scriptures. We cannot do this in our own strength! |

- (a.) Always remember the Source of this love. Refresh your memory by writing the phrases under the scripture references at the left of the bracket in 2b.

*How good and pleasant is the sight
When Christians make it their delight
To dwell in blest accord;
The Lord commands His blessing there
And they that walk in love shall share,
The fragrance of His Word outpoured.
-Psalm 1:13 selected*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:2, 3

1. According to I John 5:2, 3a how do we *know* that we love the children of God?
 - a. What does *keep* mean in relationship to *His commandments*?

2. Record what I John 5:3b says about *His commandments*.
 - a. Define the word *grievous* from other versions or a dictionary.

 - b. View I John 5:3b In the light of Matthew 11:30. What does it say?

 - c. Why might the commandments seem *grievous* to some?

3. Thoughtfully print the first phrase of I John 5:3.
 - a. Obviously, from this verse, our *love for God* and *obedience* to His commandments (His will made known to us) cannot be separated. Why is keeping His commands proof that we love Him?
 - 1) When believers KNOW their God, Who He is and what He is, it would be utter folly not to obey His commands. *Behold* our God by inscribing words or phrases from the following passages:
 - (a.) I Chronicles 29: 11, 12

 - (b.) Isaiah 40:(9c) 12-18

 - (c.) Jeremiah 10:10, 12, 13

 - i.) Jeremiah 29:11

 - 2) In what way does *knowing Who He is* fortify your desire to *keep His commandments*?

4. Share an instance, if possible, from your life in which you experienced God's enabling power helping you to obey His command to *love His children*.

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 5:4, 5

1. The reason the Christian does not find the commands of God *grievous* is because he has been given the *power to overcome the world*. See this in I John 5:4, 5. Write what these verses reveal about *overcoming the world*:
 - a. verse 4a
 - b. verse 4b
 - c. verse 5
2. The *world* here refers to the *world* system which is in opposition to God and ruled by Satan. Define the word *overcome*.
 - a. With this in mind write the phrase *overcometh the world* in your own words.
3. The word *whatsoever* in I John 5:4a is translated elsewhere *everyone*. Who *overcometh the world* according to this verse?
 - a. Answer this same question from I John 5:5.
 - b. What is the source or means whereby we *overcome the world*? I John 5:4b

1) Faith in Whom? I John 5:5b

4. Until a person has faith *in the Son of God, the spirit of the world will remain supreme in his soul no matter how pious he may seem or try to be*. Why does John insist that we believe that *Jesus is the Son of God*? (I John 5:11, 12) Answer in your own words.
 - a. How is the power of sin, the spell, broken when we are born of God? Support your answer with scriptures.

*He breaks the power of cancelled sin
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.*

C. Wesley

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:4.5

1. What did Jesus reveal about *overcoming the world* in John 16:33b?
 - a. How did *He* overcome *the world*? see Colossians 2:14, 15
 - 1) *Faith* in Jesus the Son of God makes us one with Him and fills us with His Spirit Who enables us to be overcomers too. How does that cause you to be *of good cheer* today?
2. We recognize there is a severe conflict between the *world* (system) and the Christian. The enemy wages war against us to depress, defeat, and destroy us. Briefly describe the enemies and the warfare from Ephesians 6:12.
 - a. How do the following scriptures encourage you as an *overcomer*?
 - 1) Romans 8:37
 - 2) II Corinthians 2:14a
3. Why might a person professing to be a Christian not experience this victory over the world? I John 2:15, 16; James 4:4 Use other versions if you desire. Answer in your own words.
 - a. We must face reality in our life. Where the spirit of the world or love of the world governs the life, there will be no overcoming victory experienced in the life. Explain why this is so.
4. We know from I John 3:4, 5 that we experience the overcoming power that causes us to be victorious over the world through *faith*. in Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. How does our *faith* also enable us to triumph over the world's self-centered, unloving lifestyle?

Challenge: Contemplate and summarize the victories and blessings of the *overcomers* through the following references:

- a. Revelation 2:1-7
- b. Revelation 2:8-11
- c. Revelation 2:12-17

- d. Revelation 2:18-29
 - e. Revelation 3:1-6
 - f. Revelation 3:7-13
 - g. Revelation 3:14-22
 - h. Consider the phrase *he that hath an ear, let him hear*. What did you hear the Spirit say to you about the *overcoming life*?
5. It is manifestly evident John wanted us to *know* and *understand* the victory we have in Christ over the *world*. If you sense the world trying to seduce or defeat you, how will I John 5:4, 5 help you maintain the victory?

*We've been made more than conquerors
overcomers in this life.
We've been made victorious
through the blood of Jesus Christ.
-Grein.*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 5: 1-5

1. All kinds of books have been written about families, what they are, relationships within them, and how to improve them. God's book teaches us how His family is to function. Christians are all a part of God's family. What is the qualification for birth into His family? I John 5:1a

Challenge: The word *believeth* appears twice in this I John 5:1-5 passage. Record each of these. What is the difference between the two?

- a. What is the importance of both?
2. How does one's being *born again* affect his relationship to the Father and to his siblings?
- a. Why do you think obedience (keeping His commandments) is entwined with love for God and His children?

Personal: Do you find His command to love fellow Christians grievous (difficult, burdensome)? Why or why not? Be totally honest.

3. Explain why a Christian sometimes finds God's commandments *grievous*, or difficult to obey. See Galatians 5:17
 - a. What remedy is given in Galatians 5:16?
 - b. In what way does your recognition of our awesome, glorious God of love eliminate any erroneous opinion that His commands are grievous?
 - c. Why might people who are not born again view the commands of God as *grievous* or *burdensome*?
4. Define the phrase *overcometh the world*.
 - a. In what way has I John 5:4, 5 ministered to you about *overcoming the world*?

Optional: What picture comes into mind when you think about these verses? (I John 5:4, 5)

- b. *The world's power supply is cut off at the cross. We are no more under the dominion (rule) of sin. Look at the victory that overcometh the world in relationship to Romans 6:(9) 11, 14a. What do you see?*

1) View Galatians 2:20 In the light of the cross. Write this verse phrase by phrase.

(a.) How does this verse amplify the truth of I John 5:4, 5?

5. How will you appropriate the truths in this lesson to your life?

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:
To him that overcometh, a crown of life shall be:
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.
George Duffield*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5:6-13

Lesson 20

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 5:1-5. In what ways does knowing that *he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God... is he that overcometh the world* help you daily to stand for Christ in the world?
 - a. In what way has I John 5:4, 5 ministered to you about *overcoming the world*?
 - b. What is the source or means whereby we *overcome the world*?
2. Observe the words *witness* and *eternal life* (living with God forever) on your first reading through this week's passage (I John 5:6-13). *Our eternal life is dependent on our believing and receiving God's witness concerning Jesus Christ.* Write this italicized statement here personalizing it.
 - a. Recall that John's key purpose for writing this letter was that we would have assurance of eternal life. Verify this by completing this phrase from I John 5:13:
...I have written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; _____
_____.
3. See the passage we're studying this week from the perspective of God's witness of who Jesus Christ is and the necessity of our acceptance of His witness. Note and mark the paragraph divisions and write the key thought of each using the word most repeated in the paragraph:
 - a. I John 5:6-8
 - b. I John 5:9-12
 - c. I John 5:13
4. What you believe about Jesus Christ is crucial to your salvation. Do you believe God's witness concerning Jesus Christ? Do you know you have eternal life? These verses contain truth that is essential to our understanding of what we believe and why we believe it. Begin the lesson today with a prayer asking the Lord to prepare your heart and open your eyes and ears to the truth. Write your prayer here.

*Incline your ear, and come unto Me:
hear and your soul shall live.*

Isaiah 55:3a

SECOND DAY: Read I John 5:6, 7

1. Write I John 5:6 phrase by phrase.

- a. Observe and underline the words *water* and *blood* in this verse.
- b. There are several interpretations of the meaning of this verse. One is found in John 19:(33) 34, 35 (36, 37). How might this relate to I John 5:6a?
- c. Another interpretation, which is the most preferred, is that the *water* is a reference to *Christ's baptism* and the *blood* to *His death on the cross*. What do you draw from the following scriptures to support this interpretation?

1) Matthew 3: 13-17

(a.) John 3:(3, 4) 5

2) John 12:(27) 28 (29) 30-33

3) Matthew 27:45; 50-53, 54

4) What was the last act of His earthly ministry? Hebrews 9:12

Challenge: How does John's emphasis on *water* and *blood* counter the heretical view of the false teachers, particularly the view held by Cerinthus, a Gnostic, who taught that Jesus was a man and that "Christ" descended on Him at the baptism and departed before the cross?

2. Who bears witness to Christ's coming by *water* and *blood*? (I John 5:6b)

- a. *Because the Spirit is truth*, He is a credible *witness*. Why was the Holy Spirit given according to the following verses?

1) John 16:12-14

2) John 15:26

3) I John 2:27

4) Romans 8:16

3. In verse 7 there are three that bear *record* (witness) in heaven of who Jesus is. (Most modern versions exclude this verse, but diligent research by respected Bible scholars has shown it to be in the earliest Old Latin translation written one hundred years before the manuscripts that exclude it. There are many other verses that prove the Trinity of God.) Whether this verse is included or excluded does not alter the truth revealed in it. What does it say?

- a. John states in verse 7b *and these three are one*. The word Trinity is not in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word "Trinitas" which means "threeness". God is One. Christians are monotheists. See Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:6; James 2:19. *The living and true God exists in three Persons*. Who are the three Persons?

Optional: The plurality within the Godhead is seen in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. Consider the following verses and confirm this truth by writing what they say:

1. Genesis 1:26
2. Genesis 11:7
3. Isaiah 6:8
4. We often proclaim our theology (what we believe about God) in the hymns we sing. Notice these words from the song *Holy, Holy, Holy: "God in three Persons, blessed Trinity."* Verify this truth from the following verses:
 - a. Matthew 3:16, 17
 - b. John 14:16, (17)
 - c. II Corinthians 13:14

Challenge: Add other hymns that proclaim the Trinity.

5. What we believe about Jesus is critical to our eternal destiny. We must believe the truth revealed in God's Word about Him, in verse 8 John reiterates his claim in verse 6. What is John emphasizing in verse 8 which is not found in verse 6?
6. How would you use I John 5:6-8 to confirm that Jesus is the Son of God?

*We believe the doctrine of the Trinity,
not because we understand it,
but because the Bible teaches it
and because the Spirit Himself witnesses
within our heart that it is so.*

Daniel Webster

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:9, 10

1. Pastor Chuck says: *Man's witness is accepted in a court of law. A man can be convicted or exonerated on the testimony of witnesses. If the witness of man is accepted as true, how much more ought we to accept the witness of God.* Confirm this statement by verse 9.
 - a. Why is God's testimony of greater trustworthiness?

- b. We have discovered in I John 5:6-8 *the witness of God which He hath testified of His Son*. How do the following verses confirm God's witness concerning His Son?
- 1) Mark 1:10, 11
 - 2) Mark 9:7
- c. What is God's testimony in Hebrews 1:1-4 about His Son, Jesus Christ?

2. Write verse 10 line by line using the following introduction to each:

He that believeth _____

He that believeth not _____

because he believeth not _____

a. What *witness* is John referring to in verse 10? see Galatians 4:6

- 1) According to I John 5:10 where does the believer have this witness?
- 2) The believer has an internal witness of the Spirit to the truth concerning Jesus, God's Son. In what way do you experience this witness of Who Jesus Christ is in your heart?

3. John confronts us with a life and death choice in I John 5:10. What is that choice?

Personal: Believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God takes more than an intellectual acceptance of the truthfulness of the message. It requires a personal trust, commitment, and active faith in the One to Whom God has given witness. Believing and receiving God's witness concerning Christ is essential to salvation. Do you believe on the Son of God?

a. John writes in verse 10b that *he that believeth not God hath make Him a liar*. How does the one who does not believe God *make Him a liar*? I John 5: 10c

- 1) Rejection of the Son is a rejection of God, the Father, and an unequivocal statement that God is a liar. What do the following verses say about God:
 - (a.) Titus 1:2
 - (b.) Hebrews 6:18

4. What difference has believing God's witness about Christ made in your life?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 5: 1 1, 1 2

1. In verse 11 John tells us what *the record* is that he was referring to in verse 10. Print *this record* here.
 - a. **STOP!** Meditate on what this verse is saying. What does this promise of eternal life mean to you?

2. In verse 12 John presents a sober message. What is this message?
 - a. Record the consequences of not believing on the Son from John 3:36.
 - 1) How does this stir your heart for those who do not believe on God's Son?

3. In light of I John 5:11, 12 how do you *know* that you have *eternal life*?
 - a. Eternal life begins the moment you accept Christ. How are you experiencing this *life in His Son* now?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:13

1. Why did John write this letter to the believers in the churches in Asia Minor and to us?

2. Record the similarity between the summary statement of purpose of this letter in this verse and the purpose of John's gospel as revealed in John 20:31.

Challenge: One of the main purposes of I John is to edify the believers and provide a framework for their assurance of salvation. John sets forth a variety of tests in this epistle. What are some of them?

3. A literal translation of I John 5:13 is: *These things I have written to you in order that you may know that you have eternal life - you who believe in the Name of the Son of God.* Why does John place such an emphasis on those who believe in the *Name of the Son of God*?

4. What does John want his readers to *know* from verse 13?

Challenge: John uses the Greek word "Oida" (to know) to assure them with an absolute, positive knowledge. The assurance which John refers to is woven throughout the entire epistle. List some verses from I John which confirm our assurance of salvation and eternal life.

5. How does I John 5:13 absolutely assure you that you have eternal life?

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 5:6-13

1. Review I John 5:6-13. What is the main theme of these verses? (Note First Day, Question 2) Answer in your own words.

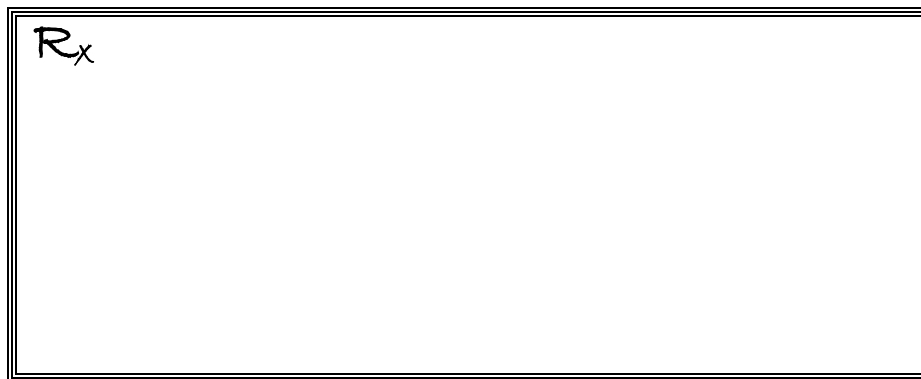
2. Observe the word *witness* in this passage once again. Why are these *witnesses* important?

3. What have you learned about the Son of God from I John 5:6-13?

a. Why is this essential to your *knowing* you have eternal life?

4. In light of I John 5:10 consider and comment on the following quotation: *Unbelief is not due to insufficient evidence but unwillingness to accept the evidence.*

a. What remedy would you prescribe for someone diagnosed with *unbelief*?



5. Share an insight, encouragement, or blessing you have received from studying these verses this week.

*Crown Him the Lord of Heaven! One with the Father known, -
One with the Spirit through Him given from yonder glorious throne.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died, eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.
Matthew Bridges & Godfrey Thring*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5: 14-17

Lesson 21

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 5:6-13. Concentrate on verses 6-8 in the light of I John 5:10a. To what do those mentioned in these verses bear witness?
 - a. With heretics who were denying the deity of Christ infiltrating the first century churches, we can readily understand why John wrote this passage. How is I John 5:6-8 relevant to the church in the 21st century?
 - b. Summarize God's witness of His Son from I John 5:(9, 10) 11, 12.
 - 1) Without the sun there could be no life on planet earth. What parallel do you see in this and the phrase *and this life is in His Son*?
 - c. If someone asked you why John wrote this letter, what verse from I John 5:6-13 would you use for your answer? Have you memorized it yet?

Optional: Briefly state what I John 5:6-12 helps you to *believe* and *know*.

2. When you pray do you really believe God hears you and will answer your prayers? How can you have assurance and confidence that He does and will? The paragraph we will be studying this week will forever assure you that if you meet the condition, He will fulfill His promise. Note and mark this paragraph, I John 5:14-17, and define the word *prayer*. Use synonyms if you desire.
3. What request did the disciples make of Jesus in Luke 11:1?
 - a. Think for a moment of how you want this lesson to affect your prayer life. Write your desire as a prayer. Add to this prayer any other requests that come to mind concerning your study time. In cooperation with Philippians 4:6 make your requests with thanksgiving.

*Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray; This is my heart-cry day unto day;
I long to know Thy will and Thy way; Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.
Albert Simpson Reitz*

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 5: 14,15

1. Read I John 5:14, 15 over several times. Pastor Chuck says: *As a possessor of eternal life, we have many blessed benefits and privileges. One of the greatest of these is prayer. One of the old favored hymns expresses this thought with these words: What privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.* Contemplate this *privilege* as you write I John 5:14 here phrase by phrase.
 - a. Write this verse in your own words personalizing it.
2. *If we meet the condition, we receive the promise.* What is the *condition* or qualification revealed in this verse to His hearing our prayer?

a. Why is it important that we *ask* according to *His* will?

1) What do these verses say about this:

(a.) Matthew 6:10

(b.) James 4:3

2) Read Matthew 26:39, 42. What example of this do you see in Jesus' prayer?

3) How does John 15:7 relate to I John 5:14?

Challenge: How can we know whether or not we're praying according to His will? Support your answer with scripture, if possible,

3. What conditions for answered prayer are given in I John 3:(21) 22 (23)?

a. How could not keeping His *commandments* (verse 23) and *doing those things that are pleasing in His sight* be hindrances to our *confidence* in prayer?

4. Print in bold letters the last phrase of I John 5:14 _____

a. Meditate on this truth for a moment. Share the joy of the Psalmist's first-hand experience of this by writing:

1) Psalm 18:6

2) Psalm 34:6

3) Psalm 66:(16) 19 (20)

4) Psalm 77:1

5) Psalm 116:1, 2

5. What does knowing God *hears* you when you pray mean to you today?

*O what pence we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.
Joseph M. Scriven*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:14, 15

1. Write from I John 5:15 what we *know* about prayer.
 - a. Allow the truth and power contained in this verse to be absorbed in your spiritual bloodstream and nourish your prayer life. Memorize I John 5: 14, 15, if possible. How does this verse counteract the doubts that we encounter in prayer?
2. The key word in I John 5:14, 15 is ASK. Record what the following verses teach us about this in relationship to prayer:
 - a. Matthew 7:7, 8
 - b. Matthew 21:22
 - c. John 14:13, 14
 - d. John 15:16b
 - e. John 16:24
 - f. Ephesians 3:20
 - g. James 1:5, 6
 - h. James 4:2b
 - i. Review these verses and star the one that is especially significant to you today and tell why.
3. Pause to meditate on the last phrase of I John 5:15. Knowing that God hears and answers our prayers (petitions), it is incomprehensible that we do not pray more. Why do you think believers are often careless or negligent about praying?

- a. Think about this in light of Luke 18:1b. How does this speak to you?
4. In what way does I John 5:14, 15 press you to greater fervency in prayer?
- a. Stop. Take time now to pray about those things that are of greatest concern in your life today.

*Were half the breath that's vainly spent:
'To heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would oftener be,
"Hear what the Lord has done for me."
William Cowper*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 5:16

1. What does I John 5:16a teach about praying?

2. Define the word *intercession* as it relates to prayer.
 - a. Every believer is to be an intercessor. Read this version of I John 5:16a: *If anyone sees his brother (fellow believer) commit a sin that does not lead to death he should pray for him and God will give him life.* What is this verse saying to you about your responsibility if you know about a Christian who is ensnared in sin?
 - 1) When we are aware of another Christian's failure spiritually, it is very easy for us to become critical and condemning or sometimes, in our concern, we simply talk to others about it, but do nothing constructive towards restoration. Why do you think we do this?
 - (a.) If we do not understand that the Lord has let us know about that one's sin so that we will pray, we can become harsh and judgmental. What is the first thing we ought to do and why?
 - (b.) Consider Samuel's example of this in I Samuel 12:(20, 22) 23 (24). What do you see?
 - 2) The phrase *God will give him life* refers to God's answer to your prayer. To think that the Lord gives us an opportunity to be a part of the deliverance of a sinning brother or sister is an awesome privilege. How does I John 5:16a refocus our attention when we're tempted to make the failing Christian an object of conversation or gossip?

Challenge: How does the *priesthood* of every believer relate to intercession? (I Peter 2:5)

3. If a Christian came to you and confessed a fault (sin), in accordance with James 5:16a, what is your obligation?
 - a. View James 5:16b in relationship to I John 5:16a. What is the promise here?
 - 1) Observe Elijah's example of this promise (James 5:16b) from James 5:17, 18. How is this applicable to you?
 - 2) In what way does it build your faith in your praying for others?
 - b. Observe Moses' intercession for the sinning Children of Israel from Deuteronomy 9:18-20. What word would you use to describe his intercession?
4. What joy would it give you to see a Christian restored because you prayed?

*Everything depends on prayer,
and yet we neglect it not only to our own spiritual hurt
but also to the delay and injury of our Lord's cause upon earth.
The forces of good and evil are contending for the world. If we would, we
could add to the conquering power of the army of righteousness Pray!
-selected*

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:16, 17

1. There are several interpretations of the *sin unto death* in I John 5:16c. Do not get sidetracked by this and miss the central message of I John 5:16. Write it. here.
2. For insight into what the *sin unto death* might refer to, briefly record in your own words the information from the following scriptures:
 - 1 Mark 3:29
 - 2 Act 5:1-11
 - 3 I Corinthians 11:27-30
 - 4 Hebrews 6:4-6

- a. Perhaps John had in mind the *antichrists* (I John 4:2-4) who were troubling the churches with their heresy that denied Jesus as God's Son. Notice that John does not explicitly forbid prayer, but he does not recommend it. It may be that he wanted to direct the believers' attention more to prayer for the purity of the congregation than for the blasphemers. Why might this be?
3. In the Old Testament we discover God forbidding the prophets to pray for Israel, His people, at certain times. Look at this from Jeremiah 7:(12-15) 16 (17-28). Why was Jeremiah not to pray for them?
4. Explain I John 5:17a in your own words in the light of Romans 3:10, 23 and 6:23.
5. I John 5:16b, 17 is not designed to cause us to be caught in a web of determining whom we should or should not pray for. See it as a warning against the danger of sinning. Return to the main point of this verse by closely observing Epaphras, an intercessor, from Colossians 4:12. What do you see in his life that is applicable to you?

*Pray at all times – on every occasion, in every season – in the Spirit,
with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty.
To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose
and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints
God's consecrated people).*

Ephesians 6:18 AMP

SIXTH DAY: I John 5:14-17

1. Record what I John 5:14, 15 teaches about prayer. Note the progression of each phrase.
2. Read I John 5:14, 15 again. What is your reaction in response to these verses?
 - a. Do you have an ever-increasing longing to be more diligent in prayer? If so, write your prayer here.
3. In what way does I John 5:16a speak to you about praying for others?
 - b. What is the major reason the Lord allows you to know about a brother or sister in the faith who is committing sin'?
 - 1) Share a testimony, if possible, where you experienced an answer to prayer in this kind of situation.

4. Intercession for others is not limited to Christians who are sinning. List some of the things from Paul's prayers that you can include in yours:
 - a. Ephesians 1:(15) 16-19

 - b. Ephesians 3:(14, 15) 16-19 (20, 21)

 - c. Colossians 1:9-11

 - d. List four people for whom you want to pray today and write one thing you deeply desire for them in your prayers.

5. We know we can send up arrow prayers any time, any place. We also are admonished in the Bible by word and example to spend time alone and together with others in prayer. Support this by the following scriptures:
 - a. Matthew 14:23

 - b. Matthew 18:(18) 19, 20

 - c. Acts 2:42

 - d. Acts 12:5

6. When and where do you find it most convenient to pray on a regular basis?

7. How do these truths in the lesson concerning prayer fit into your life?
 - a. What action will you take in response to this lesson?

*Then let us earnest be
And never faint in prayer:
He loves our importunity,
And makes our cause His care.
-John Newton*

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 5:18-21

Lesson 22

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How is what you learned about prayer in I John 5:14-16 operative in your life today?
 - a. In what way does the word *will* in I John 5:14b relate to I John 5: 1 6a?
 - b. In the context of this letter, who might the *sin unto death* refer to?
2. Observe the words *we know* in the concluding paragraph of I John. Through these verses John summarizes truths he has emphasized in this letter with three strong indisputable affirmations or assurances. Mark this paragraph, I John 5:18-21, and record the first phrase of each verse beginning with *we know*:
 - a. verse 18: We know _____
 - b. verse 19: And we know _____
 - c. verse 20: And we know _____
3. We know that the conclusion of a letter of this consequence will be powerful and relevant. Therefore, we want our understanding and our hearts to be prepared by prayer to receive all the Lord has for us in these closing verses. Write your prayer concerning this lesson here. Use I John 5:14, 15 as a faith-builder for the answer to your petitions.

*And since we know that He hears us,
whatsoever we ask,
we know that we have the petitions
that we desired of Him.*

I John 5:15

SECOND DAY: Read I John 5:18

1. Taking time with I John 5:18 will be time well spent. The truth and comfort of this verse is reassuring or convicting depending on whether *you* are *born of (begotten of) God* or not. Read this verse over several times. For clearer understanding, capitalize the word *he* and draw a line through the word *self* of *himself*. What are *we* to *know* - be assured of - from this verse? Answer by completing the following three phrases:
 - a. We know that whosoever _____
 - b. (we know) that He that is begotten of God _____
 - c. (we know) that wicked one _____

2. Observe the words *sinneth not* in I John 5:18. We know this does not mean that a Christian never sins. The verb tense used here indicates continuing action. We could paraphrase this as *does not continue in sin* or *habitually practice sin*. Pastor Chuck says concerning this verse: *It is one, thing to be overtaken by a fault. If the believer sins, he has an Advocate. It is quite another thing to be controlled by sin. Why does one born (begotten) of God not habitually practice sin? Answer in your own words from the following scriptures:*
 - a. I John 5: 18b
 - b. I John 5:18c
 - c. I John 3:6
 - d. I John 3:9
 - 1) To Whom does His seed refer?

3. Print the word *keepeth*. Selah - pause and think about this.
 - a. We sing: *If you know the Lord is keeping you, whatcha got to worry about* and yet, we often ignore that it is *the Son of God Who keeps us* when we feel the enemy is pressing in on us. The Greek verb for *keepeth* in I John 5:18 is not the same as for the word *keep* in I John 5:21. *Keepeth* means to keep an eye on; keep safe; to guard from loss or injury; to isolate; guarded, protected, preserved. Focus on this from Jude 24 (25). What does this verse say to you?

 - b. Behold our Lord's incredible *keeping* power from Psalm 121:4-7. Meditate on these verses as you write key phrases here.

 - c. What does *keepeth* mean to you now?

4. Why do we need to be *kept* by the Lord? I Peter 5:8

5. Contemplate the phrase (1 John 5:18c) *and that wicked one (evil one) toucheth him not, Toucheth* is defined as *does not lay hold on him or to assault with the intention of severing the vital union between Christ and the believer*. Write the last phrase of I John 5:18 in your own words.
 - a. *No one who has become part of God's family makes a practice of sinning, for Christ, God's Son, holds him securely and the devil cannot get his hands on him.* (I John 5:18 TLB) Do you know this today? Delight, joy, exult (leap for joy) in this truth by reading Romans 8:38, 39. What does it reveal that amplifies I John 5:18?

6. Write a thanksgiving to the Lord for the assurance I John 5:18 gives you.

Challenge: Believers know that nothing can come into their lives except the Lord allows it. We see this illustrated through the Shepherd standing guard over the gate of the sheepfold. The source of the calamity might be the enemy, but the Lord allows it for eternal purposes. Explain this by Luke 22:31, 32.

*O Protector of my soul,
You will stand against the foe:
In the dark You'll be a light for me,
O Protector of my soul.*

-Anne Barbour

THIRD DAY: Read I John 5:19

1. Compare the following version of I John 5:19 with the KJV: *We know that we are children of God and that all the rest of the world (system and mankind) around us is under Satan's power and control.* (I John 5:19 TLB) What do we know from this verse?
 - a. Recall from our study of I John what the following scriptures reveal about the world:
 - 1) I John 2:15-17
 - 2) I John 4:4
 - 3) I John 5:4, 5
 - 4) Which of these scriptures speaks most powerfully to you today about the *world*?
2. What does the phrase *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one* (NASB) tell you about anyone who is not born of God?
 - a. The word *lies* seems to suggest that the world is asleep, doesn't struggle against sin - just relaxes and is content in it. Christians, though, seem to be *encircled by hostile forces whose policies and practices endanger their very existence* (Ephesians 6:12). Why is this so? Use scripture to support your answer if possible.
3. What is your greatest struggle with the *world* (system which is in opposition to God and ruled by Satan)?
 - a. How does understanding I John 5:19 help you to not in any way be conformed to it?
4. Meditate on Jesus' prayer for His disciples and for us in John 17:(13, 14) 15 (16-21). Make it your prayer for you and for those dearest to you as well as for all Christians.

- a. If you see a Christian being attracted to the *world*, what have you learned from I John you must do?

I believe that one reason the church has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church.

-Spurgeon

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 5:20

1. Review what *we know*, are assured of, from I John 5:18, 19 with an attitude of deep appreciation. Now John completes the summary of the main themes in this letter. Write the third affirmation from I John 5:20a.
 - a. What evidence does John give of this:
 - 1) I John 1:1-4
 - 2) I John 5:6-8
2. What has He given us?
 - a. Why has He *given us an understanding*? Print your answer.
 - 1) See this verse as a strong affirmation of the Deity of Christ. View the *antichrists* of chapter 4 and Cerinthus' philosophy concerning Jesus in light of our *understanding* of Who Jesus is. *True* is a word John uses often in the Gospel of John and in I John. He was determined that the readers would know the *true* (genuine) God and His Son. He uses the word *true* three times in I John 5:20. Define the word *true*. Use synonyms if you desire,
 - 2) In a world littered with false gods and antichrists (counterfeit christs or opposers to His Deity) what does it mean to you today to know you have *an understanding that you may know Him that is True*?
3. We not only know Him that is *True*, but *we are* _____ *that is True, even* _____.
 - a. We are united to Him. We belong to Him. We are *in Him Who is True*. To be *in the Son* is to share His very life. Consider this from Acts 17:28a and write your own definition of (*we are*) *in Him*.
 - b. Contrast our being *in Him* with those of John 5:19b. With what words would you describe them?

4. *To know Him that is True, the Incarnate God, is to know Christ. Who is truly God and eternal life. Affirm this by writing the last sentence of I John 5:20.*
 - a. *Our knowledge of the Incarnation, God becoming man, and of God's work through Jesus Christ, when properly understood, leads us to a personal knowledge of Christ, who is truly God and so to eternal life. How does John 17:3 support this statement?*
 - 1) Behold God's Son in Whom we have eternal life from Hebrews 1:(1) 2, 3 (4), What do you see?
 - 2) Why do you think I John 5:20 is important to us today?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 5:21

1. Record John's last command to his dear children in I John 5:21. Note that the word *keep* in verse 21 is translated elsewhere *guard*.
 - a. *Dear children, guard yourselves from idols.* At first glance this seems a very unusual way to close this letter that taught so much about fellowship and love. In John's time Asia minor was saturated with the worship of idols. Their influence permeated the atmosphere. Ephesus, the city from which John was writing this letter, was almost totally given over to the worship of the goddess Diana. See Acts 19:(23-26) 27 for a glimpse of this in Paul's time. The Temple of Diana in Ephesus was one of the wonders of the ancient world. So prevalent was idol worship that almost every home had little statues of gods or goddesses, and huge temples had been erected as places of worship to them. Why was John's admonition so urgently needed that he felt impressed to close the letter this way?
2. Christians in the 21st century might be apt to dismiss this scripture with a shrug because they define an *idol* in terms of these little statues. How does the following paraphrase make I John 3:21 relevant to all of us: *Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts?* (1 John 5:21 TLB)
3. *An idol is anything in this life which men worship instead of God, and which men allow to take the place of God.* A man may make an idol of his money, career, status, appearance, possessions, intellect. or pleasure. Every believer must heed John's warning. What is God's command for this? Exodus 20:3 (4, 5)
 - a. What other things do we need to be aware of that can become idols in our lives?
4. How will adherence to Jude 21 help you be obedient to I John 5:21?

5. We need to allow God to turn His searchlight on our hearts in this area of idolatry. We can be oblivious or deceived about this. The all-consuming idolatry in our culture, not just restricted to unbelievers, that makes sex and appearance priority to the extreme of AIDS and anorexia is an example of this deception. How do these verses speak to this?
 - a. Proverbs 31:30
 - b. I Timothy 4: (7b)8
 - c. Romans 1:(21)24-27

6. Use Deuteronomy 6:5-9 as a preventative medicine for the invasive virus of idolatry.
 - a. Share practical ways you will carry out this assignment of Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

*Dead idols may have no appeal
but beware of the living ones,
especially thyself*

-selected

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 5:18-21

1. Write the three assurances from I John 5:18-20.

2. What did you learn about Jesus from this study?

3. Share a specific verse, phrase, or insight from the lesson that ministers to you,

4. What steps do you take to *keep* (guard) yourself from idols?
 - a. Review the statement in Question 3, Fifth Day. Examine your life in light this. If you recognize an idol in your life in response to I John 5:21, what will you do?

5. How does his lesson fit into your life?

6. With what significant word does John close his letter and what does it mean?

*To keep Your lovely face. ever before my eyes
This is my prayer. make it my strong desire
That in my secret heart, no other love competes
No rival throne survives and I serve only You.*

-G. Kendrick

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I JOHN

Lesson 23

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 5:18-21. What is the good news for believers in this paragraph?
 - a. Why is it also important to understand John's last command to believers in terms of today's culture?

2. We are completing our study of I John with a brief review of each paragraph. Look, over your past lessons pertaining to the chapter in the review. If you desire include any information, thoughts, or notes from group discussion or lectures that ministered to you through this I John Study. Record them next to the paragraph they accompany. Try to recall the following background information to this letter:
 - a. When written: Approximately A.D. _____
 - b. Write a brief biographical sketch of John, the author.
 - c. In what city in Asia Minor did John write this letter?
 - 1) What other New Testament books did he write?
 - d. To whom was the letter written?
 - e. Record a few of the purposes for which I John was written.
 - f. Write the key verse of I John.

Challenge: What false teaching or teachers were infiltrating the churches? Answer briefly.

- a. The word *know* is used over twenty-five times in I John. He wanted us to be assured of certain truths. Define the two Greek, words used for *know* and give an example of each from I John.
-
3. If you were writing a commentary of I John, what title would you give it?

4. Think for a moment about what you want accomplished spiritually in your life as you do this review. Recall I John 5:14, 15 as you make your requests known by writing them here. Thank Him for the confidence you have when you ask anything according to His will.

*God's Word makes us wise.
Wisdom from God's Word applied
makes a difference in our lives.*

SECOND DAY: Read I John 1

1. Record the key thought of each paragraph:
 - a. I John 1:1-4
 - b. I John 1:5-7
 - c. I John 1:8-10
2. What did you learn about John, the author of this letter, from this chapter?
 - a. How does this authenticate what he reveals about Jesus - especially the reality of the *incarnation*?
3. Briefly record what John 1 reveals about the following:
 - a. God
 - b. Jesus
 - 1) His blood
 - c. Sin
4. How are I John 1:7 and 1:9 inter-related?
5. Scan I John once more. Select one of the following topics dealt with **in** this chapter and share how it ministers to you. Do all if you have time.
 - a. Joy
 - b. Fellowship
 - c. Light
6. Which truth in I John 1 have you found most encouraging at this place in your Christian walk? Why?
7. Recognizing that one of the purposes in John's writing this letter was that you might have *joy* now and eternally, how do the teachings in I John 1 bring you *Joy*?

*True joy comes only as we follow
God's guidelines for living revealed in His Word.*

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2

1. Review I John 2 paragraph by paragraph. Write a brief title that defines the main point of the paragraph. Under each title choose an insight, command, assurance, verse, phrase, or application for your life from the paragraph. You may do more than one of these for each paragraph if you have time.
 - a. I John 2:1, 2
1)
 - b. I John 2:3-6
1)
 - c. I John 2:7-11
1)
 - d. I John 2:12-14
1)
 - e. I John 2:15-17
1)
 - f. I John 2:18, 19
1)
 - g. I John 2:20, 21
1)
 - h. I John 2:22, 23
1)
 - i. I John 2:24, 25
1)
 - j. I John 2:26, 27
1)
 - k. I John 2:28, 29
1)
2. Which of these paragraphs challenges you to a deeper commitment or to greater discernment? Why?

Optional: Do an acrostic of the word *abide*: (A sentence for each letter.)

A

B

I

D

E

*A whole new generation of Christian has come up believing
that it is possible to "accept" Christ without forsaking the world*

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3

1. Review I John 3:1-3. Do now what I John 3:1a tells us to do. What is your reaction to this love?

a. To what *hope* is I John 3:3 referring?

1) What influence does this *hope* have on your life'?

2. We could title I John 3:4-10: *How to Identify the Children of God and the Children of the Devil*. This paragraph can be summed up in this statement: *The children of God cannot practice a lifestyle of sin. Those who are of the children of the devil cannot practice a lifestyle of righteousness*. Verify this from phrases in this paragraph:

Children of God	Children of the devil

a. When you celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas, what should you always keep in mind? I John 3:8b

3. What do you learn about *love* from I John 3:11-18?

4. Focus on I John. 3:19-24. How is our heart linked with our assurance in I John 3:19-21?

a. What have you learned about assurance in prayer from I John 3:(21) 22, 23?

b. How do you *know* He *abides* in the believer? I John 3:24

c. How does knowing He *abides* in you make a difference in your life on a daily basis?

Our lives are a manifestation of what we think about God.

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 4

1. Review I John 4:1-6. What is every believer to do? Why?
 - a. How can *we know* the *Spirit of God* from the spirit of error?
 - b. Share an insight or truth from this paragraph that especially speaks to you.
2. Read I John 4:7-12. Give a title to this paragraph that defines its contents.
 - a. What do you learn about the measure of God's love for us?
 - b. Choose a verse or phrase from this paragraph to meditate on. Write it here.
 - 1) Why did you choose this verse or phrase?
 - 2) Is there a particular command in this paragraph for you to obey?
3. Read I John 4:13-16. In what way does this paragraph give you assurance and confidence?
4. Review I John 4:17-21. What do you discover in this paragraph that is relevant to your life today?
 - a. If *perfect love* were put in a boxing ring with *fear*, who would win?
 - b. How is *perfect love* entwined with trust?
 - 1) Why are fear and trust incompatible?

*Fear thou not for I am with thee - I will still thy Pilot be.
Nevermind the tossing billows. Take My hand and trust in Me.*

-selected

SIXTH DAY:

Read I John 5

1. Scan I John 5:1-3. According to these verses, who is *born of God*?
 - a. What do you learn about:
 - 1) loving God
 - 2) loving His children
 - 3) His commandments

2. What do you learn about *overcoming the world* from I John 5:4, 5?
3. What do you learn about God's witness of His Son in I John 5:6-8?
4. Contemplate *eternal life* from the perspective of I John 5:9-12. What do you see?
5. Once more print the key verse of I John and underline John's primary purpose for writing this letter.
6. Refresh your memory of I John 5:14- 17. What do you learn about prayer from these verses?
 - a. In what way do these verses minister to you on a continuing basis?
 - 1) How do they stir you to prayer?
7. Recall from I John 5:18-20 what *we know*.
 - a. What does I John 5:20 say we've been given and why?
 - b. Why is it eternally important to *know* Jesus is the Son of God?
8. Why is it necessary in the 21st century to *guard ourselves from idols*? verse 21
9. Take one last look at I John from this lesson. List a few of the exhortations that are to be embraced and obeyed.
10. In what specific areas and ways have you experienced spiritual progress through the study of I John?

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
When we asunder part. it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
John Fawcett*

- Amen -