

1 John Bible Study Series

**'The Truth, As From
The Beginning'**

5pm Church

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- 4) Read verses 5-7. What contrasts does John make? What does walking in the light mean/not mean?

- 5) Verse 8 states that no one is without sin. Where is sin first introduced in the Bible? What does this tell us about humanity's character? Read Genesis 3 and Romans 5:12 to help you answer.

- 6) 1 John 2:2 states that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins. What does this mean? How were humanity's sins atoned for before Jesus? Read Leviticus 16 (the day of Atonement) and discuss the process of transferring sin from the people to the scapegoat (Leviticus 16:20-22). How is this significant for the way Jesus atones for our sin?

- 7) Read 2:3-11. How does John say that we know Jesus? What does this mean for a person who claims to know God but is continuously disobedient?

- 8) In verses 7-8, John refers to an old and new commandment. What is he referring to? Read Deuteronomy 6:4, Leviticus 19:18, and Mark 12:29-30. How has Jesus taken this commandment to a new level?
- 9) Verses 9-11 talk about the importance of love. Is there a relationship between love/obedience and walking in the light? Think about the definition of love (i.e. is it just being nice to someone?) What impact does not loving have on us and our fellowship?

Application

- 10) John stated that he had heard, seen, and touched Jesus. Is our faith grounded in such proof? How does this affect the way we teach and train others for ministry?
- 11) How does this passage encourage you to obey Christ and love other members of his body? What might this look like in our everyday lives?

2 Study 2

1 John 2:11- 27

Read 1 John 2:12-2:27

Reflect for two minutes on what you have just read – make a note of any key words and things you found interesting.

Questions

- 1) In verses 12-14, what three groups of people is John addressing? Who could he be referring to when mentioning these groups?

- 2) In this passage John explicitly states his purposes for writing. What are they and what does he tell/ assure/ encourage them about?

Read 2:15-17

- 3) In a group, or individually, make a list of things that our society claims we should value.

Compare these things to what you think God values (quote Biblical texts if possible). Share your lists with the rest of the group.

4) In verses 15-17, John presents the reader with two alternatives. What are they? How does this command compare with John's instructions in 1:9-11?

4) What does it mean to 'not love the world'? How does this command impact how we view God's creation or the people in our life who do not know Jesus? Read Genesis 1, it tells us that God's world is 'good' – therefore, should we love it?

9) What is it that John says must abide/ remain in us in verses 24-27, and what is the result? Does this passage give us any assurance about what/how we believe? Read John 16:13 to help you answer.

Application

10) How do we as a Christians ensure that we are not seduced by the world around us, while still maintaining our love and care for God's creation (world and people)? Is there a difference between being thankful for the material blessings that God gives us and idolising those same things?

11) Does the realisation that the world is passing away (verse 17) change its appeal in your life and encourage you to abide in Christ? How?

- 4) What does 3:6 teach us about sin and a Christian's relationship to it? How should we view this verse in relation to John's earlier writing in 1:8-10?
- 5) If our human nature is sinful and we are incapable of remaining sinless (refer to Study 1 on the fall), how does the Bible say that we are saved? Read Romans 5:20—6:4. What are other passages in the Bible that also speak of this relationship, and how do they speak of this relationship?
- 6) What does John teach us about righteousness (verse 7)? What is righteousness? How might we be 'led astray'?

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7) From reading the passage, what distinguishes the children of God from the children of the devil (verses 7-10)?

8) Why did the Son of God appear?

Application

9) Does John teach that we are pure/ saved in our own right? Explain. How does this affect our attitude to salvation/ sin?

10) How does John's definition of sin (verse 4) compare with how people view sin today? Do we sometimes 'water-down' sin in the same way that the world does? How can we avoid/ change sinful practices in our life?

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7) What does John mean when he uses the word 'spirit' in 4:1?

8) What does John say we should do to these spirits? Is it right for us to test or challenge the teaching we see in books, magazines, television etc.? What about church leaders or those more mature in faith than we are?

9) How are we to recognise, in ourselves and in others, the difference between a spirit of truth and a spirit of falsehood? Read 1 Corinthians 12:3

Application

10) Why is it necessary for us to have the correct understanding of Jesus?
How can we ensure that we are constantly discerning what is true and false teaching?

11) How is this passage helpful for people who are struggling to feel that they are a Christian? Could you use this passage to counsel/ reassure them?

- 4) In 4:9, John writes that God demonstrated his love among us by sending Jesus, so that we might live through him. Jesus was the ultimate demonstration of God's love for humanity. Taking into account the whole Bible can you identify other key times when God has demonstrated his love to humanity. In groups, draw a timeline of Biblical theology and identify the key points.
- 5) In 4:12, John states that no-one has seen God. Read 1 John 4:9-10 and John 1:18 – what do these verses tell us about the way God reveals himself to us, so that we may know him?
- 6) Does 4:8-12 help us, as Christians, to understand why it is so important for us to love others?

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- 7) Read Matthew 22:34-40. If Jesus said that 'loving your neighbour' is one of the most important commands (and John says it is a characteristic of a true believer), is it still necessary for us to obey all the commands? How is the rest of our behaviour impacted by the command to love?

Application

- 8) In 3:17, John gives a specific example of how we can imitate Christ's love. Are there other ways that you and those in your church can show love to those with material/ spiritual needs?
- 9) Write down or discuss and then pray about one way that you could intentionally reflect the love of God to a family member, work colleague, and friend.

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Study 6**1 John 5:1-5:21****Read 1 John 5:1-5:21**

Reflect for two minutes on what you have just read – make a note of any key words and things you found interesting.

Questions

- 1) In 5:1-3 John brings together three things that he has identified throughout the letter as characteristic of true believers. Can you identify what those three things are? (Begin by reading back over 2:3-6, 2:7-11 and 2:20-25 to help you).

Go through the entire letter and note where else these ‘characteristics’ are mentioned in the text.

- 2) In 5:4, who is it that overcomes the world? Where else does the Bible speak of this victory?

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Read 5:6-8

- 3) What does John mean when he writes that Jesus 'came by water and blood'? Read Mark 1:9-11 and Hebrews 9:11-14.

- 4) In the Old Testament Law (Deuteronomy 17:6), a claim could be proven by the testimony of three witnesses. Which three witnesses does John refer to and what is it that they are testifying (verses 7-8)?

- 5) In chapter 5, John focuses on the testimony/ truth regarding Jesus. In light of the situation in which John was writing, why is this so important? Refer back to 1 John 1:1-4 and 5:13?

- 6) In 5:16-17, John writes that some sin leads to death. What do you think he means by this statement?

Application

- 7) 1 John 5:4 speaks of the victory that God gives us over the world. What are some of the things in your life that God has helped you to overcome? What do you need to keep praying that God will help you overcome?

8) If we as Christians are certain of our salvation, and therefore we are abiding in Christ, what should our life look like? What changes could you make in your life to demonstrate that you are abiding in Christ (think particularly in terms of belief, obedience and love)?

Summing up

9) Read back through the entire letter and make a note of how many times John uses the phrases 'you/we know...'. Record each reference on a piece of paper. What things is he assuring us of?

10) According to what we have learned from this letter, what does it mean/ look like for us to abide in God/Jesus? What characterises a true believer?



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