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Study 1: Overview

In your group read through the whole of the book of 1 John.

As you do, make a note of:

- ❖ Any verses you don't understand
- ❖ Any verses that stand out to you
- ❖ Any questions you want answered

Study 2: Walk in the Light

Read 1 John 1:1-4

1. What/who is it that John proclaims?
2. Why do you think John uses so many phrases to describe Jesus instead of just saying his name?
3. How can we be sure John knows what he is talking about?
4. **What difference does it make for you to know that what we will read about Jesus in this letter is written by an eyewitness?**
5. Why does John proclaim Jesus (the eternal Word of life made manifest)? (v3)
6. **What does it mean for you to be in fellowship with the Father, and the Son, and other believers?**
7. What effect will it have on John when his readers believe? (v4)
8. **Have you known this joy of seeing others enter into the fellowship of God and his people?**

Read 1 John 1:5-2:2

9. What truth about God does John want his readers to know?
10. What is the source of this message?
11. Consider together what it means for God to be light, with no darkness in him.
12. What is the first lie John exposes (v6)? What does this mean?
13. What are the benefits of walking in the light? (v7)

14. In what ways is this image of walking in light helpful for you?

15. What is the second lie John exposes (v8)? What does this mean?

16. What happens to our sins if we admit them?

17. What happens to our unrighteousness?

18. How does this show God to be faithful and just?

19. Are you quick to confess your sinfulness, or do you excuse and deny it?

20. What are the differences between verses 8 and 10?

21. John wants his readers to not sin, but he knows they will. What hope is there for sinners?(2:1,2)

Read 1 John 2:3-6

22. What is the proof we have come to know God?

23. Compare **2:4** with **1:6**. How does this help us better understand “walking in darkness”?

24. What is the connection in verse 5 between love and obedience?

25. Is the focus here on making judgements about others, or about ourselves?

26. What does it look like to walk as Jesus walked?

Thank God and pray for one another using some of the verses from today's passages.

Study 3: What We Know

Read 1 John 2:7-11

1. What do you think the “old commandment” is? (See Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18)
2. What is it about Jesus that makes the command to love “new”? (See verse 8 and John 13:34)
3. What is love for one another evidence of? (Recall 1 John 1:7)
4. **If we are walking in the light there is no room for hate. How does this personally challenge you?**
5. **What are some practical ways we can love one another?**

Read 1 John 2:12-14

6. What is John’s encouragement for everyone (his little children)?
7. What is John’s encouragement for the older men (and women)?
8. What is John’s encouragement for the young men (and women)?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

9. What does it mean to love the world? (see v16)
10. What passes away and what lasts?

11. Why can't we love both the world and the Father?

12. How can the encouragements of v12-14 help us to not love the world so much?

Read 1 John 2:18-27

13. How does John identify antichrists? (v19,22)

14. What truth do John's readers know?

15. How does God - Father, Son and Spirit – work to bring us eternal life? (See also John 15:26 and John 17:3.)

16. What are we to do? (v24, 27).

17. What does it mean to abide in God? (See also John 15:1-17)

18. If there is “no need that anyone should teach you” (v27) why do we have sermons, seminars and trainings?

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Study 4: Children of God

Read 1 John 2:28-3:3

1. What relationship do we have with God the Father?
2. How do we come into that relationship?
3. What happens when Jesus appears?
4. How are we to live until then?
5. **Take a moment to reflect together on this extraordinary love the Father has given us!**

Read 1 John 3:4-10

6. What two reasons does John give for why Jesus appeared? (v5,8) How are they related?
7. We know that Christians do continue to sin. How is this different from “making a practice of sinning”?
8. What does it mean to practice righteousness? How are we able to do this?
9. **Do your neighbours and friends know that you are a child of God? Do your righteousness and love give them evidence of this?**

Read 1 John 3:11-18

10. What lessons does John draw from the account of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-8)?

11. What is the supreme example of love? (v16, also John 10:11; 15:13)

12. What does John say love looks like in practice?

13. What does real love cost us?

14. Can you think of a time you have received love from fellow Christians?

Read 1 John 3:19-24

15. By now we might be feeling a little overwhelmed, and even be wondering if we really are born of God! What reassurance is given in verses 19-20?

16. Reading verse 22 by itself it sounds like God grants our requests as a reward for obedience. Is this really what John is saying?

17. What is God's commandment? (v23)

18. From all we have discussed today, how would you reply someone who asks "What does it mean to be a child of God?"

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Study 5: God's Love and Ours

Read 1 John 4:1-6

1. What warning does John give?
2. What test does he give for discerning the spirit of God?
3. Should we worry that there are false prophets and false spirits? (See v4)
4. Verse 6 sounds a little arrogant! Who is the "we"? How can they claim such authority? (Recall 1:1-3)
5. **How should we regard those who claim to be prophets or say "God told me..."?**

Read 1 John 4:7-12

6. What truth about God does John want his readers to know?
7. How does John explain his statement that "God is love"?
8. How is Jesus' sacrificial death an act of love?
9. Which comes first: our love for God or his for us? Why is this important?

10. What's the connection between God's love and ours?

11. What does it mean for God's love to be perfected in us?

12. How does reflecting on God's love for you in Christ motivate you to love others?

Read 1 John 4:13-21

13. How helpful are verses 13-15 as a summary? Do they add anything new?

14. Do we need to fear the day of judgement? Why/why not?

15. What is your confidence for the day of judgement?

16. Do you sometimes find it easier to love God than to love your fellow Christian? Why is this? How does John correct us?

Thank God and pray for one another using some of the verses from today's passages.

Study 6: Life in the Son

Read 1 John 5:1-5

1. What does John say about those who are born of God?
2. How do we overcome the world?
3. **What does it mean to overcome the world? (Recall 1 John 2:15-17)**

Read 1 John 5:6-12

Jesus is the one who came in fulfillment of the promises of God (See Luke 8:19, John 12:13). His coming by water probably refers to his baptism, which marks the beginning of his ministry. His coming by blood probably refers to his death, by which he completes his mission. The Spirit bears testimony to the person and mission of Jesus, as Jesus himself said he would (John 15:26-27, John 16:13).

4. What is the testimony of God concerning his Son? (v11,12)

Read 1 John 5:13-17

5. Why does John write these things?
6. **What difference does it make to you to know you have eternal life?**
7. What confidence can we have in prayer?
8. How does this apply to our prayers for those fellow-believers we see sinning?
9. **When you see a sister-in-Christ sinning, is your first response to pray for her?**

10. From what we have read today, where is life found? What, then, do you think is the sin that leads to death? (See also Hebrews 10:26-27)

Read 1 John 5:18-21

11. What is the first thing we know (v18)?

12. Also read John 10:27-30. How does the security of Jesus' protection help us when we are tempted to sin?

13. What is the second thing we know (v19)?

14. Is this truth a comfort or challenge to you?

15. What is the final thing we know (v20)?

16. Why do you think John's final charge is to keep from idols?

How would you answer someone who asks you what 1 John is all about?

What have you been most encouraged by as we have studied 1 John together?

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