

LESSON INTRODUCTION

This study in the book of I John is designed to simply help you gain a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and what it means to have a personal relationship with Him.

The gospel writer John is the same writer of the epistle of I John. John writes in the gospel in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life."

The focus of this study is for you to understand that Jesus Christ gave His life so that you could experience the love of God, the salvation of Jesus' sufferings, and the hope of everlasting life. It is John's hope that as you experience Jesus, you would develop a deep fellowship with Jesus and live your life according to the love you have for Jesus.

The result of having fellowship with Jesus is a great deal of joy in your life. It is our prayer that as you study I John, your barometer of joy will increase in your life.

IN THIS STUDY YOU WILL LEARN:

1. The definition and understanding of real love
2. Who and what is the Anti-Christ?
3. What it means to "abide" with Jesus Christ
4. Who is Jesus Christ?
5. What it means to have real Joy
6. How to have better relationships with others
7. The benefits of having eternal life in heaven

WHAT TO ANTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY:

1. Self-Study is a lesson you will review on your own, based upon the sermon that was preached from a particular passage of scripture
2. The Bible Study will be the lessons that will be taught on Wednesday evening!
3. You can expect homework questions, to help you review each lesson and be prepared for the next week's lesson.

STUDY OUTLINE

NOTE: Each sermon is a self-study that you will study on your own to review that particular passage of scripture.

Sermon/Self-Study: **God is Light** – I John 1:5-10

Bible Study 1: **Establishing Good Relationships** – I John 2:7-11

Sermon/Self-Study: **Flee From Satan** – I John 2:12-14

Bible Study 2: **Love Not the World** – I John 2:15-17

Sermon/Self-Study: **The Anointing On Your Life** - I John 2:18-24

Bible Study 3: **The Promise of Eternal Life** – I John 2:25-29

Sermon/Self-Study: **Better Practices** – I John 3:4-10

Bible Study 4: **Love People** – I John 3:14-24

Sermon/Self-Study: **The Spirit of the Anti-Christ** – I John 4:1-6

Bible Study 5: **What it Means to Love** - I John 4:7-11

Sermon/Self-Study: **Who Do You Love?** – I John 4:11-12

Bible Study 6: **Living As An Overcomer** – I John 5:1-4

Sermon/Self-Study: **Testimony of Eternal Life** – I John 5:5-12

Bible Study 7: **Asking According to God's Will** – I John 5:13-17

Sermon/Self-Study: **True Understanding** – I John 5:18-21

Self-Study: God is Light

Scripture Reference: I John 1:5-11

MAIN IDEA: The key to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is fellowship with Jesus, which helps to avoid sin traps in your daily living.

John who was an up-close eyewitness of Jesus, writes to the church to help them understand the true identity of Jesus. John wanted the people to have true fellowship and abide in Jesus. His report of the encounters with Jesus was accurate.

Take a moment to review:

1. Matthew 17: 1-13
2. Mark 5:37
3. Luke 9:28

John writes in vs. 1 that Jesus existed from the very beginning. (Compare Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1.)

In theological terms, Jesus is the pre-existent Christ. Colossians 1:15-16 says, "all things were created by Him and for Him." Because Jesus was there in the beginning, He understands everything about life and living, for He is the "Word of life" (I John 1:1).

John writes in the gospel in 1:14, "the word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory as that of the only begotten of the father full of grace and truth." John also affirms in John 10:31, "I and the Father are one." We understand that Jesus is both God the Son and the Son of God.

Take a moment to review the scriptures for clarity about who Jesus is:

Scripture references:

1. Acts 4:12 - Reveals Himself in Salvation
2. Matthew 26:63-64 - Son of God
3. John 20:28 – He is God
4. John 1:1-4 - Second Person of the Trinity
5. John vs. 3-4 – Creator of the Universe
6. Colossians 1:15 – The image of the Invisible God
7. Heb. 4:15 – He is sinless
8. I Cor. 15:3-5 – Bodily Resurrection
9. Rev. 19:16 - King of Kings
10. Col. 2:9 – God in bodily form

WINTER STUDY 2021



Study in the Book of I John

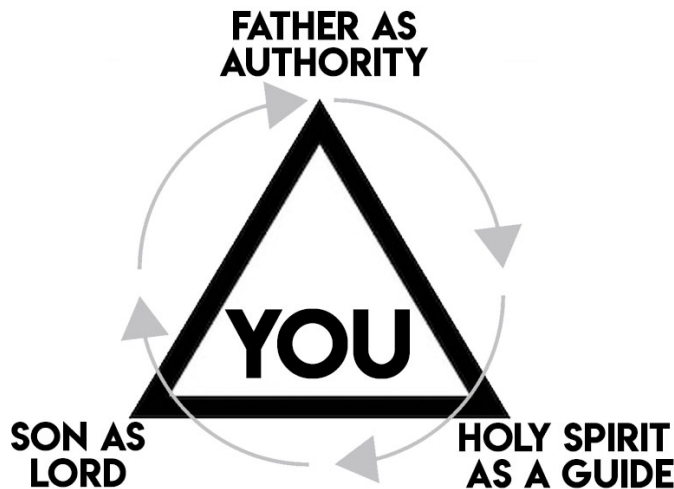
I John 1:2 is where John clarified that the life of Jesus was manifested or made evident before us and this is what we are speaking to you about. John wanted the church to be clear that Jesus came to offer eternal life, heaven, a place to reside when one dies. Because God is eternal, He has created a permanent home for those who believe in Him.

Read John 14:1-6

True Fellowship

John wanted the church to have true fellowship with him and fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. The key to this study is to understand what it means to have true fellowship. This fellowship involves having a revolving sense of understanding the role of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in your life.

Take a moment to see if your relationship revolves around the roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:



This revolving flow of interaction with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit serves as insulator so that one can experience "joy that is complete." (I John 1:4) The reason why many people do not experience complete joy is because of the role of sin in their lives. Sin interrupts fellowship with God.



Study in the Book of I John

APPLICATION

If a parent has to leave their job to go to the school or either to the jail to get their child out of trouble, it disrupts the flow of the parent's day and the harmony in the relationship with their child. This is what sin does in one's relationship with Jesus. It interrupts joy.

Joy is that element that springs up from your faith and gives your life reassurance.

Read Romans 15:13 -

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Write how joy fills your life:

Joy is that special ingredient in life that all persons should want to have. Joy ignites happiness and peace. Joy lets you know you will have victory over the enemy, death, and hell. Joy gives you the confidence that God will hear and answer your prayer. Sadly, many persons do not have joy in their lives.

Take a moment to write the areas of your life where you *do not* experience joy or that complete happiness:

LESSON IDEAS

Read I John 1:5-10

Study the points below in order to understand what it means to have to have a personal relationship and true fellowship with Jesus Christ:

(I) Man must fulfill his greatest need: To have the WORD, Vs. 5

Man's greatest need is a word from God. John was saying to the church that the word dwelt among us. He and the other disciples interacted and handled the word and as a result they were able to have joy and true fellowship.

We have to keep in mind that Jesus is the perfect expression of what God wanted man to be. In Jesus, we have the best example about how to live and how to love in this life.



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Read John 10:10

What did Jesus give us?

Jesus makes a clear statement of why He came to earth, which was to give life. He wanted man to be able to enjoy the blessing of life. In order to be able to enjoy the blessing of life, man would need to be freed from the grip of sin.

True fellowship requires that we know that:

A. God is light vs. 5-6

John is pointing out a great attribute of God. God is light, which means God is moral, holy, and upright. In God, one will not find darkness at all because darkness refers to sin, evil, and transgressions.

Most people when they walk around their house, they turn on lights. They use the electricity they are paying for to provide them guidance to maneuver in their home. If one tries to maneuver in their home in darkness, either something gets broken, i.e., a toe, or one will stumble over furniture, which could cause harm to the body.

B. There is NO Darkness in God

Darkness is associated with evil and bad behavior. If one chooses to live their life walking around in darkness, they obviously do not want others to know what they are doing.

Two Behaviors You Must Practice in order to walk in the Light:

1. Simply avoid walking in darkness

2. Practice the truth – there is no fellowship with God if one chooses to lie to themselves about the sin in their life.

You cannot justify dark areas of your life, i.e., justify a lie with another lie

(II) Man's Need for True Fellowship vs. 7

A. The Light is the Word of God.

How can one walk upright on their own, relying on their thoughts, motivations, and wills? In order to walk in the light, the light and the truth of scripture should light the path of one's lifestyle.



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Note the benefits of walking the lighted path of Jesus:

1. True fellowship with other people.

APPLICATION:

Are you in a relationship that is struggling? The reason that relationships have problems is because one or both parties are not in a good relationship with Jesus Christ. If there are ups and downs, on and off again, and inconsistencies in the relationship, one or both parties are experiencing broken fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Relationships need Jesus at the center in order to have true communion and joy with one another

2. Cleansed life through the blood of Jesus.
As a child, we were told to go take our bath before we got into bed on clean sheets. The blood of Jesus cleanses our sins, so we can live a clean life.

The Problem with broken fellowship: Unwillingness to confess our sins, vs. 9

APPLICATION

True fellowship with Jesus Christ happens when you confess your sin(s). This means that when you pray to God and confess, say to God what He says about that sin. When you confess that sin, truth is enabled to enter your life and rescue you from that sin.

In other words, confession delivers you and frees you from living in the lie of that sin. Confession also helps you from deceiving yourself about the sin. When you confess the sin, the word of God is able to minister to that area of your life.

APPLICATION: What sin do you need to confess? _____



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(III) Man Needs To Be Forgiven, vs. 9

One of the hardest acts for a person to do in their life is to accept the fact that they are forgiven. Our human nature tends to lead us to think that our sin is so bad, that it cannot be forgiven. Having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ means that you have been forgiven of sins.

Read Romans 8:1 and write why this verse is important:

Read Matthew 6:12 and write why this verse is important:



BIBLE STUDY 1

CHAPTER 2: ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

SCRIPTURE LESSON: I JOHN 2:4-11

MAIN IDEA: Having a love for people, involves knowing Jesus and abiding in His commandments.

LESSON IDEAS:

Read I John 2:4-11

Good Relationships Include:

(I) Keeping God's Commandments vs. 3

John, in verse three is stating that there is a correlation between knowing Jesus and keeping His commandments. Thus, if you are a believer and you say you know Jesus then it means you must be keeping His Commandments. Thus, the commandment includes love for God and love for one another.

In verse 4, John makes a strong claim for people who do not keep the commandments:

1. _____
2. _____

If I know Jesus, I will keep the commandments

Read John 14:23 and write it below

Jesus wants to know from you, do you love Him? _____

Let's define Love

What does love mean according to verse 4?

1. Love means **keeping** Jesus' commandments
2. Love means **demonstrating** love for one another: John 13:34



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3. Love is *expressing* the love shown to you by Christ
4. Love means *keeping* His Word, vs. 5
Means the Word of God is in you

Love defined: adhering to the commandments and demonstrating unconditional acts of expressions to others.

How do you get the Word in you? List three ways you work on getting the WORD in your spirit?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

In verse 8 what does John mean when he says, "because the darkness is passing away"? Is John implying that people do not love because of the darkness in their lives?

Sin is the cloud of darkness over a person's life. Sin disrupts the flow of peaceful loving relationships.

APPLICATION

Read Romans 1:28-32, Paul's list of sins:

1. If a person is filled with greed, how will it affect their relationships?

2. If a person is filled with strife, how will it affect their relationships?

3. If a person is arrogant, how will it affect their relationships?

When John speaks that "the true Light is already shining" he is referring to Jesus. Jesus is the light that shines within people's lives to cast a brightness that "arrogance" cannot stand to be around.

"Let your light shine that men may see your good works"



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(II) Removing Hate vs. 9

Is it possible to hate your fellow brother or sister? _____

Let's define hate:

Question: Is it possible to be in the Light and hate your brother?

Two Scenarios, vs. 9-10:

1. If you say you love Jesus and walk in the light and hate your brother, you are really walking in darkness.
2. If you love your brother and abide in the Light, then there is no stumbling in your life.

QUESTION: Which scenario describes your life?

APPLICATION

Hate for your brother means that you are walking in darkness and you are unsure of where you are going. To hate someone means you struggle with darkness and you struggle with whether to speak or not, call or not, or attempt to reconcile or not. It involves a continual revisiting of what caused the hatred in the first place.

All of that thinking prevents you from moving forward in life. It's hard to move forward because you are constantly looking in the rear view of your memory rehashing old thoughts. This type of thinking keeps you from studying, concentrating, and focusing on God's will and His plan for your life.

John notes that it is possible for a believer to walk around with "blinded eyes." How does one repeal the blinders and walk truly in the light?



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Consider the following:

1. Think about the problem you have with your brother.
2. Why is that such an issue for you?
3. What will it take for you to move past this particular problem?
4. Is it worth the struggle in your heart to continually have to deal with this issue?

CONCLUSION:

How will you improve the relationships in your life?



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Self-Study: Flee From Satan

Scripture Reference: I John 12:12-14

Main Idea: To be forgiven of one's sin means you have victory over Satan

How does one come from under the influence and deception of Satan?

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ involves having the factual knowledge that you have victory over Satan. Jesus Christ defeated sin through His sacrificial death on the cross. Because Jesus did that for you, you can experience JOY (I John 1:4).

Joy is being deeply happy about living the life you have been granted. However, the reason some do not experience joy is because of the dark cloud of sin, hovering over their lives or aspects of their lives. I hear it quite often, "I don't understand why this is happening to me." Or I don't understand why my life hasn't changed. Well, if you are a believer and accepted Jesus Christ into your life, it could be that dark cloud of sin.

Question: What is Sin?

Sin is being separated from the righteousness of God. When a believer is separated from God by sin, it disrupts the spiritual flow of God's truth in your life. Sin is a detriment to wholesome healthy living because it causes discord in the spirit. Sin creates a dark place or places.

Why does sin cause:

1. Deception _____
2. Lies: _____
3. Manipulation: _____

Believers fail to realize the power they have over sin.

Read 1 John 2:12 and underline the most important words in this verse:

"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake."



Study in the Book of I John

LESSON IDEAS

(I) Know You are Forgiven, vs. 12

Read John 8:1-11 – How did Jesus forgive the woman who was caught in adultery?

1. Why was Jesus able to forgive her of her sins?
2. Jesus is the advocate for sin – I John 2:1
3. The woman had accusers who were also guilty of sin. However, Jesus is God and is able to forgive a person's sin.

Read the following passages where Jesus forgives sin:

1. Luke 5:20
2. Matthew 9:2
3. Mark 2:5-7

Sin will distance you from the church. It will put separation between you and your family members. Sin will confuse you on whether you are hearing God's voice or another voice. Sin will cause you to be a selfish person, looking out for your best interest.

APPLICATION

How to seek forgiveness for your life:

1. Acknowledge the sin or the sin area in your life – I John 1:8
2. Confess that sin unto God. Tell Him about the sin. Your acknowledgement is your confession about what He already knows about you. I John 1:9
3. Ask Him to forgive you of that sin and or sin area in your life.
4. Repent, turn away from that sin

Read Romans 6:14 – Do you have victory over sin?

(II) Know Jesus vs. 13

A. Read the critical verses on knowing Jesus

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Acts 4:12 | Reveals Himself in Salvation |
| 2. Matthew 26:63-64 | Son of God |
| 3. John 20:28 | He is God |
| 4. John 1:1-4 | Second Person of the Trinity |
| 5. John vs. 3-4 | Creator of the Universe |
| 6. Colossians 1:15 | The image of the Invisible God |
| 7. Heb. 4:15 | He is sinless |



Study in the Book of I John

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| 8. I Cor. 15:3-5 | Bodily Resurrection |
| 9. Rev. 19:16 | King of Kings |
| 10. Col. 2:9 | God in bodily form |

B. John says to the fathers and the young men, you know Jesus – John 1:1

1. You know Him because you have overcome the evil one.
You have victory over the one who is against God and who attempts to lead you against the chosen path of God for your life.
2. You know the Father – John 14:7
 - a. The Father abides in the Son and the Son in the Father - John 14:10
 - b. If you believe in Jesus, greater works will you do – John 14:12. This is the power you have over Satan.

APPLICATION:

What are some reasons why people are hesitant for accepting the historical Jesus?

Know that Jesus wants you to be like Him. Christ wants you to learn of Him and His word. Christ wants you to pray to Him. He wants to do great things through your life.

(III) Know the Word, vs. 14

John says to the young men, be strong and the word of God abides in you. And you have overcome the world.

How does one overcome the evil one, Satan? The answer is through the Word of God. One cannot have constant interaction with God and still conduct sinful behavior. The word of God is more powerful than Satan. One develops spiritual strength and muscle and faith by studying the Word.

Read the following scriptures to know you have victory over Satan:

1. You will have victory over your enemies – Mathew 22:44
2. You are a conqueror – Romans 8:37
3. Greater is in you – I John 4:4