

SMALL GROUP STUDIES IN 1ST JOHN



Blessed Assurance!

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:12-13

GETTING TO KNOW GOD'S WORD
AND EACH OTHER.

Introduction:

Study Notes on 1 John **The Letter of First John**

A Small Group Study Guide to the Letter of 1st John

Studying the Word of God is important. We are not called on to just go to church and listen to nice sermons. Sermons are to be explanations of Scripture and exhortations to godly living. The sermon only helps us to grow in Christ to the measure with which we apply it to our daily lives.

Listening is only one way of learning. We also learn through discussing the lessons with other people, researching (like the Bereans) to make sure these things are so and to deepen our knowledge beyond what could be presented in a 40-minute sermon. A small group gathering in which the sermon topic is discussed and explored can be very helpful to understanding and applying the Word to our lives. It also affords us opportunity to connect with other believers in the body of Christ, which is not possible on a crowded Sunday morning.

A small group can be 2-3 people or a group of up to 12 people. Too large a group stifles discussion by limiting it to a few. A small group needs A LEADER, A LOCATION, and A LIST OF QUESTIONS or discussion starters. Each person should do some outside study to prepare for the time and to deepen their understanding of the book or passage under discussion.

We suggest you start your own study group as we begin 1st John and continue to meet throughout the study. Others may choose to meet and study for a limited time period, such as through the first chapter, for six weeks at a time, or for a 10-week period. The choice is yours. The church office or our web site can provide you with a guide for small groups.

We have included study outlines for small group discussions, key verses to memorize, at least three translations, as well as online commentaries that will help in your exploration of the text.

The Epistle of First John

Key Verses to Memorize

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...” – Colossians 3:16

5 Absolute Verses (Every believer should memorize)

1. 1 John 1:9 – **If we confess our sins...**
2. 1 John 2:15 – **Love not the world...**
3. 1 John 3:16 – **Herein is love...**
4. 1 John 4:18 – **There is no fear in love...**
5. 1 John 5:12 – **He that has the Son has life...**

12 Key Verses (The “crème de la crème”)

1. 1 John 1:7 – **If we walk in the light...**
2. 1 John 1:9 – **If we confess our sins...**
3. 1 John 2:15 – **Love not the world...**
4. 1 John 3:16 – **Herein is love...**
5. 1 John 3:20 – **If our hearts condemn us...**
6. 1 John 4:8 – **God is love.**
7. 1 John 4:18 – **There is no fear in love...**
8. 1 John 4:19 – **We love him because...**
9. 1 John 5:4 – **This is the victory...**
10. 1 John 5:12 – **He that has the Son has life...**
11. 1 John 5:13 – **These things I have written that you may know...**
12. 1 John 5:18 – **He that is born of God keeps himself...**

8 Block Verses (about 24 in all)

1. 1 John 1:5-7 – **Walk in the Light...**
2. 1 John 1:6-9 – **If we confess our sins...**
3. 1 John 2:15-17 – **Love not the world...**
4. 1 John 3:16-18 – **Ought to lay down our lives...**
5. 1 John 3:19-22 – **If our hearts condemn us...**
6. 1 John 4:7-8 – **Beloved let us love one another...**
7. 1 John 5:11-13 – **He that has the Son has life...**
8. 1 John 5:14-15 – **This is the confidence we have in Him...**

Short-Short Verses (great one-liners)

- 1 John 1: 8 – **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...**
1 John 1:10 – **If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar...**
1 John 2:6 – **Walk just as He walked.**
1 John 2:25 – **He has promised us—eternal life.**
1 John 3: 18 – **Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**
1 John 3: 20 – **If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart,**
1 John 4:8b – **God is love.**
1 John 4:19 – **We love Him because He first loved us.**
1 John 5: 21 – **Keep yourselves from idols.**

Lesson 1:

Study Notes on 1 John

Are You Sure?

Dr. James Kennedy, of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, many years ago began his style of evangelism with two important questions:

“Are you sure beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are going to heaven?”

“If you were to die tonight and God were to say to you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ What would you say?”

These are diagnostic and defining questions. Are you sure beyond a shadow of any doubt that you have been saved?”

Are you saved? If so, do you know that for certain? How certain are you? What is the basis of that assurance? How do you know that you are a true believer and not a false one? Are you really absolutely certain of your standing before God? Do you fear death?

Blessed Assurance

God does not want His children to be uncertain, tentative, insecure, or fearful of their standing with their Heavenly Father. The Apostle John is always concerned about this assurance before God in each of his writings, the Gospel of John and the three Epistles of John.

We invite you to join with us over the next 15-18 weeks as we preach from 1st John and study the Word of God together in small groups. These studies are designed to help guide you through the Scriptures of 1st John and to understand the surety of your salvation. Please find a small group or start your own small group where you can meet once every week with 3-10 people and discuss Scripture, share burdens, eat together and pray for one another.

From the verses to memorize section choose THREE VERSES or sets of verses that give you the most assurance before God.

