



**Preparing for Small Group:** Read the passage below, and answer the following questions.

- (1) What do these verses tell me about God?
  - (2) What do these verses tell me about sinful humanity?
  - (3) What do these verses tell me about Jesus?
  - (4) What does God want me to know?
  - (5) What does God want me to do?
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### **“Have Confidence”**

*1 John 5:13-21*

**Main Point:** Believers should have confidence in their salvation.

#### **We can have confidence in prayer (14-17).**

Because of the great salvation that believers are given by grace through faith in Jesus, believers should have great confidence in prayer. John not only states this truth, but he also provides important direction on how to pray with confidence as a believer. While John doesn't provide limitations on what we can pray for, John does provide a basic boundary of prayer, which is that effective prayers are prayers that are aligned to God's Will. Knowing God's Will requires knowing God's Word, which requires reading, meditating, and savoring the Word of God in our lives. The result of praying God's Will is that God hears and answers our prayers, especially when prayer is focused on God's work in the lives of His children.

1. Read 1 Jn. 5:13. Discuss what this verse means. Why is this confidence in the life of a believer important to God? How should this confidence impact your life today for God?
2. Read 1 Jn. 5:14-15. What are some other verses that teach about effective prayer in the life of a believer? Share and discuss a few verses.
3. If praying God's Will is the key to the confident prayer claimed in verses 14-15, then how can we know God's Will?
4. Read 1 Jn. 5:16-17. How are these verses connected to verses 14-15? What is God's Word saying in these verses, and how should this truth impact your prayer?

#### **We can have confidence in victory over sin and Satan (18-19).**

Believers do not continue to be characterized and defined by their sin. In fact, believers have power through Jesus over sin and over Satan. John makes this clear by clearly stating that those who are born of God do not keep on sinning. Willful, unrepentant, persistent sin does not characterize the life of a true believer. What makes that possible in the lives of believers is simple: Jesus! “He who was born of God protects” the children of God (1 Jn. 5:18). The protection of Jesus in the life of a believer means that Satan has no power to eternally touch the believer who is relying on and living in the power of Jesus in his or her life. This reality is a significant difference between a believer and the rest of the world. Believers are from God, but unbelievers “lie in the power of the evil one” (1 Jn. 5:19).

1. In 1 Jn. 5:18, what does it mean that the person “born of God does not keep on sinning?” Discuss the meaning of this verse, grounding your discussion in specific passages in Scripture related to this issue.
2. What does God mean in telling us that “he who was born of God protects him (the believer)? How does this work in a practical way in your life as a believer?
3. Discuss the meaning of “the evil one does not touch him.” What does this mean? What does it not mean?
4. Read 1 Jn. 5:19. How should this impact your view of the lost around you in the world. How should this impact your prayer for them? Spend time right now to break into small groups and pray for those who lie in the power of the evil one.

**We can have confidence in knowing God (20-21).**

It’s amazing how good God is! He wants us to know that we know Him. Through His work in the life of a believer, the Holy Spirit gives understanding related to Jesus. Through that understanding, God gives the believer confidence that they know that they are in Christ and that Jesus is the One who is true! Ultimately, a person can only know that Jesus is the “true God and eternal life” through the true work of God in their life, leading them to understand and to know who Jesus is! As a result, why would a believer want anything to do with anything less than Jesus! We have the true God and eternal life in Jesus Christ, which no idol can ever compare.

1. Read 1 Jn. 5:20. Jesus came and gave understanding to believers related to what? List and then discuss each truth that is understood in this verse.
2. How does verse 20 related to verse 19? What are the implications for the work of the gospel today through your testimony and our church?
3. Read 1 Jn. 5:21. What are some “idols” that believers must keep themselves from today?
4. Who can you share the truths in verse 20 with this coming week. Pray for each other and for those you’ll be sharing with, and hold each other accountable by sharing about those conversation in your small group next week.