



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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“More Than Enough”

1 John 5:6-12

Main Point: Jesus is God’s Son and is the only way to eternal life.

Facts about Jesus and life in Him:

God’s testimony of Jesus is verifiable (6-8).

- *Jesus was verified by His baptism.*
- *Jesus was verified by His crucifixion.*
- *Jesus is verified by the Holy Spirit.*

These verses are not the easiest to understand. While the Spirit is clearly definable, it’s not as clear as to what John is referring to when he mentions the blood and the water. How are these three things related? What do these three things agree on? In connection with the verses that follow, it’s evident that these three things are connected to the testimony of God concerning the identity of Jesus. In reviewing the passages related to blood and water, the most probable interpretation connects these two things to two events that were essential to establishing the person and work of Jesus, which are His baptism and His crucifixion. In the baptism of Jesus, the Father and the Spirit communicated in an undeniable and verifiable way that Jesus was His Son. In the crucifixion of Jesus, God tore the veil in the temple, shook the foundations of the earth, and raised the dead to life, breaking into creation in a supernatural way that communicated in an undeniable and verifiable way that Jesus was the Son of God. Likewise, the Spirit communicates to the hearts of believers in an undeniable and verifiable way through the truth of the Word of God that Jesus is the Son of God. The bottom line, based on the verifiable testimony of God, is that Jesus is the Son of God.

1. Review the baptism passages in the Gospels. How did God communicate the identity of Jesus in a public and verifiable way in this historical event in the life of Jesus? What’s important about the setting of Jesus’ baptism that included so many witnesses?
2. Review the crucifixion passages in the Gospels. How did God communicate the identity of Jesus in a public and verifiable way in this historical event in the life of Jesus? Discuss why some believed and some continued in unbelief.
3. What are some passages related to the testimony of the Holy Spirit? How does this relate to God’s Word and to your ability to believe God’s testimony of Jesus?
4. Pray for hearts to be convicted and led to the truth of Jesus through the testimony of God.

God's testimony of Jesus should be enough (9).

If God's testimony is so clear and is confirmed by multiple, verifiable events in history, why isn't it accepted? If people are willing to accept the testimony of people related to truth in this world, how much more should people be willing to accept the testimony of God related to truth in this world? John's point in verse nine is simple and is connected to these questions. The answer is self-evident. God's clear testimony of Jesus should be enough! From the Prophets and the Law that pointed to Jesus, to the angels that declared Jesus at His birth, to the baptism, transfiguration, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, God's testimony related to the identity of Jesus is more than enough.

1. Discuss the historicity of the life of Jesus. Why is it critical that we understand Scripture as history? How does this impact the testimony of God?
2. Why does John use three examples that all agree about the identity of Jesus? How is this connected to the validity of the testimony about Jesus?
3. How should this verse impact your work in sharing the testimony of Jesus with others?

By faith, God's testimony of Jesus is your testimony (10).

God's testimony is enough, and God's testimony is true. Since this is the case, John points to two logical consequences of this truth. If someone denies the testimony of God related to Jesus, that person makes God out to be a liar. What a powerful statement that powerfully summarizes the arrogance of the denial of the testimony of God. There's no middle ground with God. Either He is God and is believed as God, or He's not. However, there's also a resultant, positive consequence for those who believe, which is that those who believe the testimony of God related to Jesus receive that testimony in themselves! What a wonderful truth. The testimony of God about the person and work of Jesus is a testimony that is received and becomes the testimony of those who believe. As a believer, your testimony about Jesus isn't different from God's testimony. His testimony of Jesus is your testimony!

1. Think about the reality of calling God a liar. Do you know someone who is making God out to be a liar because of their denial of Jesus? Pray for those people now in your group. How would you share this truth in love with these people?
2. What does it mean that the person who believes has the "testimony in himself?" Discuss.
3. Is the testimony of Jesus central to your testimony? Practice sharing a few testimonies.

Faith in God's testimony of Jesus brings life in Jesus (11-12).

- *Eternal life is a gift.*
- *Eternal life is only received by faith in Jesus.*

The testimony of God about Jesus all points to God's gift of eternal life through Jesus. This is the testimony. God's testimony of Jesus isn't about health and wealth in this life. It's about abundant life here-and-now and forever that only comes through life in Jesus Christ. There's no other way to receive the gift of eternal life. It only comes through Jesus Christ. God makes this truth abundantly clear in His clear message that those who have Jesus have life and that those who do not have Jesus do not have life. Effort and works won't receive God's gift. Other religions and thought systems won't receive God's gift. God's gift can only be received through faith in God's Son: Jesus Christ.

1. Discuss these two verses. Do you truly believe this? If so, discuss the ways that this should impact your life and priorities every day.
2. Discuss the eternal reality of those without the Son. Do you believe this? What's the one thing that can change this in the life of someone with the Son?
3. Break into groups of two or three, and praise God for the eternal life you've been given in His Son. Pray for that gift to be received by many right here through the gospel this year!