

Dear Children,



1 John
devotions



covenant church
GLEN ELLYN

Introduction

There seems to be no debate that 1 John was written by the Apostle John between 85-95 AD, following the first great persecution under Nero which had claimed the lives of thousands of Christians, including Peter and Paul. The letter was addressed to Gentile Christians near Ephesus which is in the western half of present-day Turkey. John wrote to these Believers in order to assure them of the certainty of their faith and to correct the false teaching that Jesus was not fully human and fully divine.

This guide is offered to help you in your further exploration of the Scripture text during the week following the Sunday sermon. While you may use any translation you wish, the questions are based on the New Living Translation.

WEEK ONE BEGINNING JUNE 16: READ 1 JOHN 1: 1-4

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. Write down the action verbs you see in this introduction to the letter.
2. How does John know that what he is writing to them is true doctrine?
3. You may not have "seen, heard, touched" Jesus in the way John did. How can you know true doctrine today?
4. Reflect on how true doctrine affects your relationship with the Father, the Son and other believers.
5. Why does John "write these things so that you may fully share our joy"?

Notes:

WEEK TWO BEGINNING JUNE 23: READ 1 JOHN 1:5-2:2

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. What contrast is John directing our attention to in verses 5-7?
2. What are two benefits of living in the light that are noted in these verses?
3. Read verse 8 again. Are there ways you are fooling yourself and not living in the truth?
4. Are there things on your heart that you need to confess to God? Now is a good time.
5. What assurance does John want to offer his readers in 2:1 & 2?

Notes:

WEEK THREE BEGINNING JUNE 30: READ 1 JOHN 2:3-11

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. The world we live in focuses on how we *feel*. But how can you *know* that *you* are not a liar but are living in the truth?
2. In what ways do you fail to live your life as Jesus did?
3. John frequently addresses his readers as "dear children" or "dear friends" or "beloved". What significance do you see in this?
4. John reminds his readers that the commandment to love one another is both old and new. (See Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; and John 13:34.) How did Jesus live the truth of this new commandment?

Notes:

WEEK FOUR BEGINNING JULY 7: READ 1 JOHN 2:12-17

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. Why does John repeat, "I am writing" and "I have written"?
2. In verses 12-14, what stages of faith does John address: How does he encourage those in each stage?
3. How does loving the world prevent you from having the love of the Father in you?
4. What things of the world do you crave or take pride in?
5. Do you see evidence that "this world is fading away"?

Notes:

WEEK FIVE BEGINNING JULY 14: READ 1 JOHN 2:18-27

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. John points out that the Anti-Christ (upper case) is yet to come, but he mentions anti-christs (lower case) that have already appeared. How are these "anti-christs" identified? (v. 22)
2. How do we know the difference between truth and lies?
3. In the early days of the Evangelical Covenant Church, a common question asked was, "How goes your walk?" Assess how you are maintaining fellowship with the Trinity.
4. What in your life tempts you to be led away from the truth that the Holy Spirit teaches?
5. Read verse 27 aloud. Jot down what hope and reassurance you gain from this verse.

Notes:

WEEK SIX BEGINNING JULY 21: READ 1 JOHN 2:28-3:10

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. Does anything in your life keep others from recognizing you as God's beloved child? If so, what?
2. What might others see in your life that identifies you as God's beloved child?
3. Why is it important that you know that you will someday be like Christ?
4. What is the difference between sinning and keeping on sinning?
5. How does John help you determine if you are a child of God or of the devil?

Notes:

WEEK SEVEN BEGINNING JULY 28: READ 1 JOHN 3:11-24

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. How does our present world feel about Christ followers?
Why?
2. According to John, how do we know what real love is?
3. List some ways you can lay down your life for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
4. Spend some time reflecting on the truth that God is greater than your heart/feelings. Rest in that knowledge.
5. How do you understand God's commandment to abide/live in Him and He in you?

Notes:

WEEK EIGHT BEGINNING AUGUST 4: READ 1 JOHN 4:1-6

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. Have you had any experience with false prophets like John is referring to?
2. How do you discern between head knowledge and heart knowledge that Jesus has come in the flesh?
3. What should your attitude be about anti-christs and the Anti-Christ? Why should you not be afraid?
4. Are there ways in which you accept—or even embrace—the world's viewpoint? If so, what are they?
5. If you have not already memorized verse 4, please do so now! This will get you out of a lot of hot water.

Notes:

WEEK NINE BEGINNING AUGUST 11: READ 1 JOHN 4:7-5:4a
and consider the passage as a whole.

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. Count the number of times some form of the word love is used in this passage. Why do you think it is repeated so often?
2. What are some results of God's love for us?
3. What are some results of our love for God?
4. What are some results of our love for each other?
5. What evidence do you see that God's love is "defeating this evil world"?

Notes:

WEEK TEN BEGINNING AUGUST 18: READ 1 JOHN 5:4b-12

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. How is victory possible over "this evil world"?
2. In what three ways is Jesus Christ revealed as the Son of God?
3. What human testimony is John referring to in verse 9?
4. Can you find other times in Scripture that God has testified that Jesus Christ is His Son? (Example: Matthew 3:16-17)
5. What conclusion do you draw from verses 11 and 12?

Notes:

WEEK ELEVEN BEGINNING AUGUST 25: READ 1 JOHN 5:13-21

Begin by praying for the Spirit's help in opening your eyes and ears and heart to what God is saying in His word.

1. John's purpose in writing this letter is stated in verse 13. What does this verse mean to you?
2. Re-read verses 14 and 15. How do you know that what you ask for pleases God?
3. Bonus question: Ask Jeff or Anne about verses 16 and 17.
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4. We live in a world under the control of the evil one. How are we protected even if we sin?
5. In verses 20-21, John brings us full circle back to the subject of fellowship with God through Jesus. What might cause you to break fellowship with God?
6. What has been most meaningful to you as you have spent time in 1 John?

Notes:



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