

2018 Summer Bible Study Introduction

I'm so excited to begin this study of 1 John with you! I hope you love it as much as I do. John, the Beloved Apostle, has poured his heart and soul into this letter, and we can gain so much insight from these Holy Spirit-inspired words.

In order to gain the most from this short book (five chapters), it will be well-worth your while to read it through entirely before we begin. Then read it again each week before completing the daily study.

Here are a few more suggestions:

- 1) Make it a habit to slow down as you read the particular verses. Learn to meditate on these powerful words.
- 2) Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His Word as you pray for understanding.
*“For if you cry for discernment
Lift your voice for understanding,
If you seek her as for hidden treasures;
Then you will discern the fear of the Lord
And discover the knowledge of God.
For the Lord gives wisdom
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:3-6 (NASB)*
- 3) God wants us to seek Him with our whole heart. That means we can't have one eye on our Bible, and the other eye on Facebook or Twitter! Turn off all devices while you are studying God's Word. Show God He is more important to you than social media! Our constant interruptions are making it increasingly difficult to “*be still and know that I am God*”. *Psalm 46:10*
- 4) Share the special “aha” moments or hidden gems with all of us who are going thru the study together! We would love to know what God is showing you.
- 5) Dedicate yourself to finishing what you have started. Be committed to the end. It's easy to be distracted during the summer with other things. But think about this – we are blessed to live in a country where we still have access and freedom to read the Scriptures. It is not like that in many places. Let's make the most of our opportunity!

It may be that, like me, you start off with good intentions, and then life happens! If your situation changes, and you can't keep up with the study, just do what you can. Come to the group discussions when you can (either Wednesday morning, or Wednesday night), and do the daily study when you can. Remember, any time spent in God's Word is better than none. Don't let the devil steal your joy! God loves you, and we do too!!!