

SPEED ROUND... READ I JOHN 2:1-11

- Have the group answer these questions with words or phrases **as fast as you can**
- Don't worry **more discussion** will be on this later!

1. What character trait qualifies Jesus to be our advocate in this passage?
2. For what did Jesus die?
3. What is the evidence in a believer's life that demonstrates knowledge of God?
4. What must one do if he or she "abides in the light"?
5. What names does John call God in this passage?
6. What happens to those who keep God's commandments?
7. What happens to those who do not keep God's commandments?
8. What words are repeated in this passage?

More Discussion... (Have everyone have their Bible or App open)

1. In the first verse of chapter 2, John states that his purpose in writing is so that believers might not sin. But he then says, "But if anyone does sin..."
Why do you think this is written this way?
2. Although he encourages us not to sin, he understands that at times we will. How difficult is it for you to keep in balance the understanding that you still sin sometimes while striving not to? *Are you more apt to dismiss or excuse your sin because you know your standing before Christ as righteous, or are you more inclined to wallow in self-condemnation?*
3. What does it mean **to you** that Jesus Christ the **righteous** is always standing before the Father as an **advocate** for you?
4. Does your daily conduct in public and private life demonstrate that you know God? What would have to change for your life to stand as a witness to your love for God?
5. Karen Jobes writes, "One who truly knows God recognizes His glory and excellence and obeys God's commands because they are excellent and beautiful." Do you view God's commands as excellent and beautiful? How will you seek to know God better so that you will have a higher view of God and his commands?
6. Is there someone in your life toward whom it is difficult for you to demonstrate the love of God? How could you best love that person? Would you feel comfortable sharing that with the group? Allow them to begin to pray for you.
7. Verse 10 tells us that if we love others well, then we will not cause them to be tempted toward sin by our behavior. Is there anything in your behavior that might cause temptation or make it easier for a fellow Christian to continue in their sin? Do you speak words of loving truth when a brother or sister is in sin?

As you can see, John places a huge importance on love and Christian community. This week, spend some time with your group to connect outside of your weekly meeting—at someone's home, a café, or a restaurant. Encourage one another!