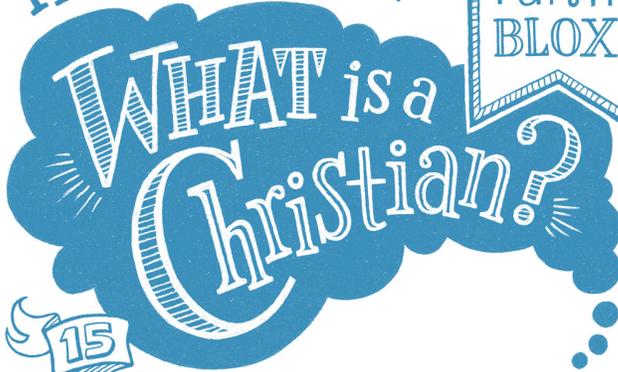


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Session 1

Handout



15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

Introduction

1. Who wrote 1 John? (John, the Apostle, one of Jesus's disciples.)

2. What other books in the New Testament did he write? (John, 2,3 John, Revelation.)

3. What are the 3 things we see in the life of a follower of Jesus? (True teaching, living, and loving.)

4. Do we have to do what God asks to be accepted by Him? (No. We do what God asks because He has accepted us.)

5. Why can't we follow Jesus and just stay right where we are? (Because "follow" is an action word. Following someone requires action.)

6. How do you feel about the idea of following Jesus? Excited? Scared? Curious?

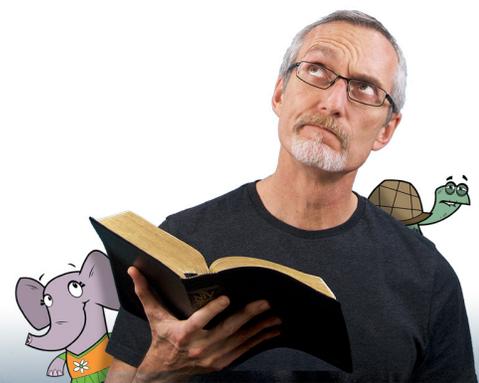
So What?

For toddlers: Play "follow the leader" with your child. Ask if your child wants to learn about following Jesus.

For grade schoolers: Identify with your child those people whom he or she follows on a daily basis. Ask your child how following Jesus might be similar or different.

For you: Who do you follow? A boss? A hero? Who would your child say you follow? How might their answer influence what you want to learn from 1 John?

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Session 2 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

Read Again

1 John 1:1-4

"We write you now about something that has always existed. We have heard. We have seen with our own eyes. We have watched, and we have touched with our hands. We write to you about the Word that gives life." (1 John 1:1, ICB)

- 1. Why does John talk about sense like "hearing," "seeing" and "touching"?** (To show that he was with Jesus and has the authority to teach.)
- 2. What is the "Good News" about Jesus?** (That He can give us a "forever kind of life" with God.)
- 3. John wants us to have "fellowship" with God. What's fellowship?** (Doing life together with friends. Enjoying being together.)
- 4. What is "joy"?** (The best kind of happy—hug happy—that lasts much longer than "cookie happy.")
- 5. Is it wrong to want to be happy?** (No. God wants us to be happy. But He wants us to be the best kind of happy, and that comes from being with Him, not from a cookie.)
- 6. What kinds of things make you the happiest?** Name some things that make you "cookie happy." Name some things that make you "hug happy."

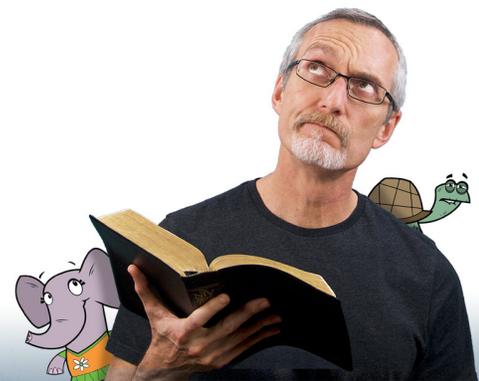
So What?

For toddlers: Say out loud three times: "God loves me and He wants to be my forever-friend."

For grade schoolers: Give a parent or a sibling a hug. Say: "God gives us joy. Hug happy."

For you: Go out of your way to do something fun or exciting with your child. Say: "The fun we have together is the kind of joy God wants to have with you."

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Session 3 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

Read Again

1 John 1:5–10

“God is in the light. We should live in the light, too. If we live in the light, we share fellowship with each other. And when we live in the light, the blood of the death of Jesus, God’s Son, is making us clean from every sin.” (1 John 1:7, ICB)

1. **What does it mean to say God is “light”?** (God is everything good.)
2. **What does it mean to live in “darkness”?** (Living a life that is mean. Selfish. That hurts other people.)
3. **And living in the light means?** (Living a life that is kind, loving and generous to other people.)
4. **Do we have to be perfectly good to be with God?** (No. God accepts us just the way we are.)
5. **What does John mean when he talks about “The blood of Jesus”?** (Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.)
6. **What does that sacrifice do for us?** (It makes us clean, so we can be with God!)
7. **Do you ever mess up? How does it make you feel to know God loves you even when you mess up?**

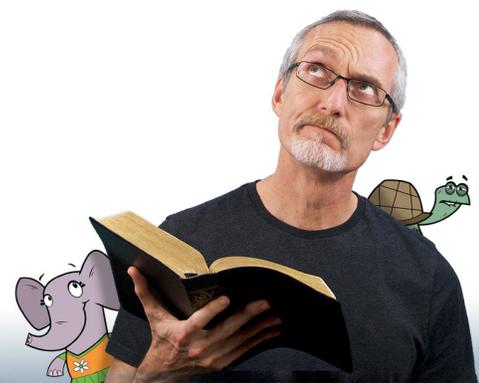
So What?

For toddlers: Take your child into a dark room. Have him or her turn on the light (help reach it). Say: “God is light. We live in light.” Try it again until your child says it on his or her own.

For grade schoolers: Pick one thing with your child that he or she will do to “live in the light.” (Pick up without complaining, share a favorite toy with a sibling, thank a parent for making food.)

For you: Own a failure to your child—mismanaged temper, forgotten commitment, ignored request for attention. Ask for forgiveness. Explain that your love for your child doesn’t change even when you’ve made a mistake.

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Session 4 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

Read Again

1 John 2:1–6

“My dear children, I write this letter to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have Jesus Christ to help us. He is the Righteous One. He defends us before God the Father.” (1 John 2:1, ICB)

- 1. According to the Bible, what is the punishment for sin?** (Death.)
- 2. What does it mean to say Jesus “defends” us before God?** (Jesus takes the punishment that we deserve.)
- 3. Do we need to perfectly follow God’s rules to show we love Him?** (No, we show we love God by trying. God shows He loves us by forgiving us when we don’t do it perfectly.)
- 4. According to John, what does it mean if we don’t even try?** (It means we don’t really love God — or even know Him. Knowing God means loving God.)
- 5. When you think about what Jesus did for us so that we can live forever with God, how does it make you feel?**

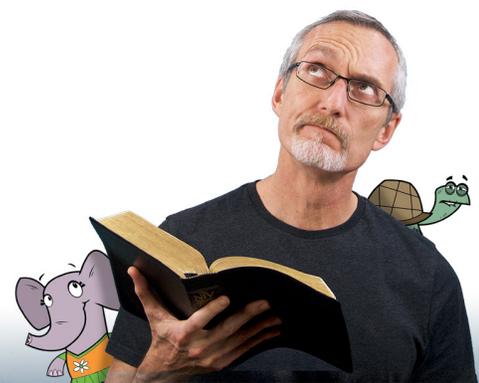
So What?

For toddlers: Hold a pillow in front of yourself. Help your child to do the same. Say, “Jesus defends us” three times together.

For grade schoolers: Help your child pick something to sacrifice for someone else’s sake. (Give up computer time to wash dishes, let a sibling pick a movie, give allowance to a homeless shelter.)

For you: Forgive a mistake or act of disobedience you child commits and suspend all punishment. In gentleness, explain that your ability to forgive comes from Jesus’ forgiveness of you.

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Session 5 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 2:7–14

“Whoever loves his brother (or sister) lives in the light, and there is nothing in him that will cause him to do wrong.” (1 John 2:10, ICB)

- 1. John says he is writing a new command that is also a very old command. What is it?** (Love. Love God, and love your neighbors.)
- 2. Why were the Israelites given so many rules about what to eat and what to wear?** (So they would know they were different than their neighbors—that they were “set apart” for God.)
- 3. What does the world “holy” mean?** (Set apart for God.)
- 4. Who called Himself “the Light of the World”?** (Jesus.)
- 5. Aren't you glad you don't have to follow 900 different rules?**
- 6. But sometimes, isn't it easier to follow a rule like “don't use bad words” than to actually be kind to someone you really don't like? Do you see why sometimes people actually prefer the old kind of rules to the new rule about love?**

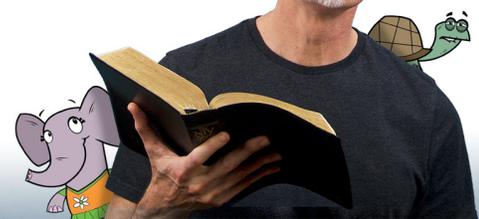
So What?

For toddlers: When your child obeys a rule, stop and thank him or her and say: “You showed me love by obeying.” Celebrate with your child his or her love.

For grade schoolers: Help your child pick something to do for a family member or friend that will show love, but isn't “required” by rules. (Volunteer to help with clean up after dinner, share a snack with a sibling, say three kind things to a friend.)

For you: Do you have “personal time” carved out of your schedule? If so, spend some of it in one-on-one time with your child. If not, chose an activity to do with your child that might not be your favorite, but you know your child wants to do.

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Session 6 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 2:15–29

“These are the evil things in the world: wanting things to please our sinful selves, wanting the sinful things we see, being too proud of the things we have. But none of those things comes from the Father. All of them come from the world.” (1 John 2:16, ICB)

- 1. What is love according to the world?** (A feeling that comes and goes.)
- 2. What is love according to the Bible?** (A choice. A choice to make something or someone more important than other things.)
- 3. To follow Jesus is to choose...what?** (To choose to make God and our neighbors the most important things in our lives.)
- 4. What is the opposite of true teaching?** (False teaching.)
- 5. Which kind of love do you think the world needs more of right now? The “feeling” love? Or the “choosing” love?**
- 6. Think of a way you could make someone else feel more important in your life.**

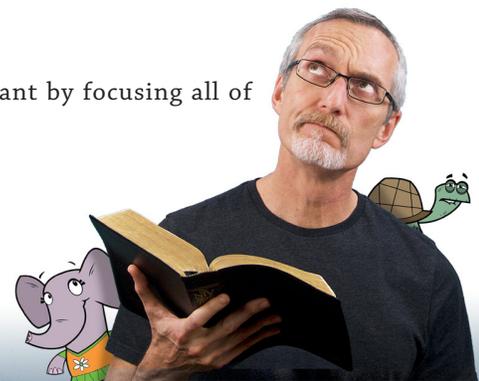
So What?

For toddlers: Give your child a choice—a choice in snack, play activity, toy—but express your desire for one of the options. Say: “We love by letting others choose first.” Let your child choose first. Then help him or her practice letting you choose first.

For grade schoolers: Help your child identify something he or she can do for another person to make that person important, then help your child do it. (Rake leaves for a neighbor, make cookies for a friend, draw pictures for the older people at church.)

For you: Turn off the TV, the computer, and the cell phone. Make your child important by focusing all of your attention on him or her for a half-hour.

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Session 7 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 3:1–10

“The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are his children.” (1 John 3:1a, ICB)

- 1. Who were the ones who could talk to a king anytime and not get in trouble?** (The king's children.)
- 2. Since God created everything, and is in charge of everything, what does that make Him?** (The King of everything.)
- 3. And John says because of Jesus we are invited to be ... what?** (The children of God.)
- 4. Which means we can be with God and talk to God when?** (Whenever we want!)
- 5. If we are God's children, will we stop being mean and selfish all at once?** (No, but over time we will become more kind and loving. That's a sign of knowing God and being His child.)
- 6. When Jesus comes back we will see Him “as He really is.” What does that mean?** (Perfect.)
- 7. And what will we be like then? And our whole world?** (Also perfect. Without sickness, without death, without sin.)
- 8. How does it make you feel to know you can always talk to God? About anything? And never get in trouble for interrupting Him? Do you really believe that we're princes and princesses?**
- 9. Does this make you want to bring your problems to Him more often? How could that help you in a bad day?**

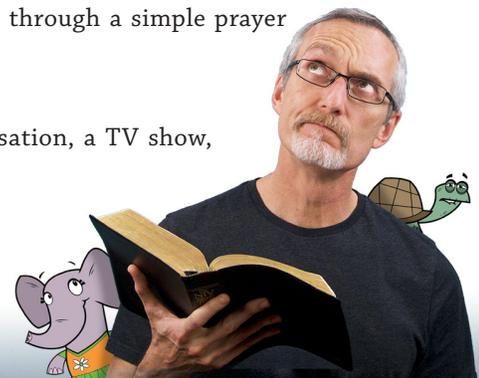
So What?

For toddlers: Show your child a picture of him or her as an infant. Say: “You are my child.” Then show your child a picture of you as a kid. Say with your child, “We are God's kids,” three times.

For grade schoolers: Take a moment to sit and pray with your child. Walk him or her through a simple prayer thanking God that we can talk to Him at any time.

For you: Let yourself be interrupted by your child—whether in the middle of a conversation, a TV show, reading a book—show your child with your actions what having God as Father is like.

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Session 8 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 3:11–18

“My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do.” (1 John 3:18, ICB)

- 1. What does it mean to love someone, according to the Bible?** (To choose them. To make them more important.)
- 2. What does it mean to hate someone, according to the Bible?** (To reject them. To make them less important.)
- 3. What's the ultimate example of making someone less important?** (To say they don't deserve to live. To take their life away.)
- 4. Who does John give as an example of this kind of hate?** (Cain, who killed his brother Abel.)
- 5. What is the ultimate example of loving? Of making someone more important?** (Giving your own life to save someone else.)
- 6. Are there ways to show love without giving up your own life?** (Yes! When we help someone who needs help, we make them more important. We show love.)
- 7. We all do things that make other people feel less important. Think of something someone has done that made you feel less important, and something you've done to someone else.**
- 8. Now think of a way someone made you feel more important. Did you feel loved?**

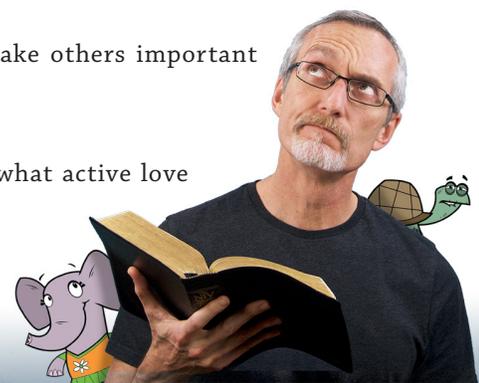
So What?

For toddlers: Help your child see the difference between saying and doing. Say you'll give him or her a present (snack, toy, book), but don't. Say, “Love does what it says,” three times. Let your child practice saying and doing.

For grade schoolers: Help your child pick another activity where he or she can make others important (clean a sibling's room, help a parent with chores, make a present for a friend).

For you: Be intentional to carry out a promise or commitment to your child. Show what active love looks like.

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Session 9 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 3:19–24

“This is the way we know that we belong to the way of truth. When our hearts make us feel guilty, we can still have peace before God. God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.” (1 John 3:12–20, ICB)

- 1. What is the “the way of truth”?** (The way of Jesus. Living like Jesus asks us to live.)
- 2. If we’re walking with Jesus and we do something bad, are we “in trouble” with God?** (No. We have peace with God no matter what.)
- 3. When we pray, will God give us everything we ask for?** (No. He will give us the things He wants for us.)
- 4. What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”?** (To ask with the authority of Jesus because you’re asking for something Jesus wants to happen.)
- 5. How do you feel when you pray for something and it doesn’t happen? Could it be that what God really wants to give you is even better?**

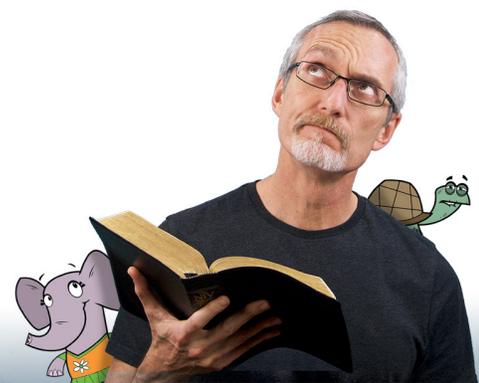
So What?

For toddlers: Practice the sentence together: “Even when I’m wrong, God loves me.”

For grade schoolers: Help your child make a list of things he or she likes to pray for or about. Take time to look at each one, and talk about how he or she would respond if God did or didn’t answer each.

For you: When you correct or discipline your child, stop and make sure you’re not angry, and then gently remind your child that you love him or her, even when he or she does wrong.

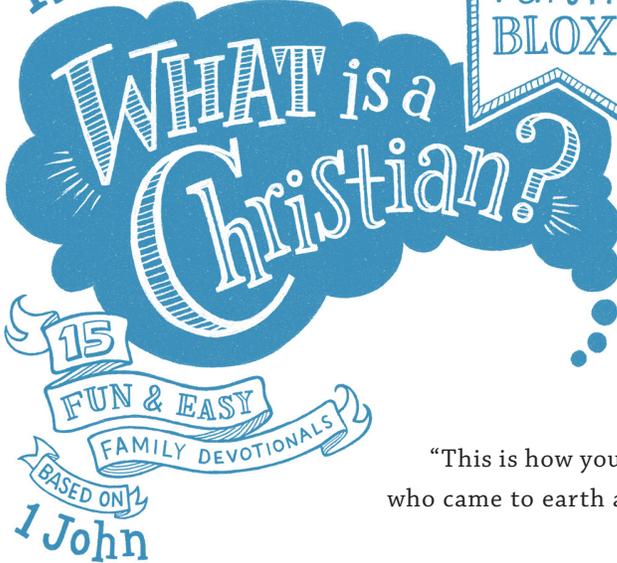
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Session 10 Handout



Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 4:1-6

"This is how you can know God's Spirit: One spirit says, "I believe that Jesus is the Christ who came to earth and became a man." That Spirit is from God." (1 John 4:2, ICB)

- 1. Who showed up in the Garden and lied to Adam and Eve?** (A lying serpent. A "sneaky snake.")
- 2. Are angels fat babies with wings?** (Nope. They are God's messengers.)
- 3. What name is given to the snake later in the Bible?** (Satan.)
- 4. Did Satan start out as an angel?** (Yes. An angel who decided he wanted to be God's enemy instead of God's friend.)
- 5. Why don't we need to be afraid of God's enemy?** (Because God is the biggest!)
- 6. What does John want us to know about the messages we hear?** (Not all messages are from God! Test the messages against what you know is true about God.)
- 7. Can you think of any messages you've heard on TV, in songs or at school that you're pretty sure are "sneaky snake" messages, not God's messages?**

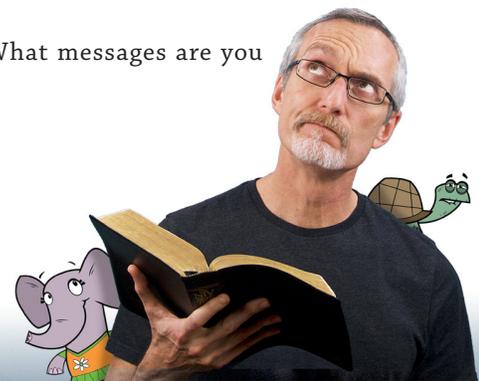
So What?

For toddlers: Create with your child—either drawing or with modeling clay. Make a "sneaky snake." Say three times together, "God is the biggest."

For grade schoolers: Pick a song or movie your child likes. Talk with him or her about the "sneaky snake" messages that could be hiding in it. Talk about what God's message would say in contrast.

For you: Take a moment to think about the forms of entertainment you consume. What messages are you ingesting? What might your child learn from your choices in entertainment?

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Session 11 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 4:7-12

"No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us. If we love each other, God's love has reached its goal. It is made perfect in us." (1 John 4:12, ICB)

- 1. To be God's child, do we first need to become good at loving?** (Nope. God helps us grow in love after we become His children.)
- 2. Where does true love come from?** (God.)
- 3. How did God show His true love for us?** (By sending Jesus to save us from death.)
- 4. How do we show God to others?** (By loving them!)
- 5. Sometimes we worry that we don't know enough to tell people about God. Isn't it great to know we can show people God, just by loving them?**

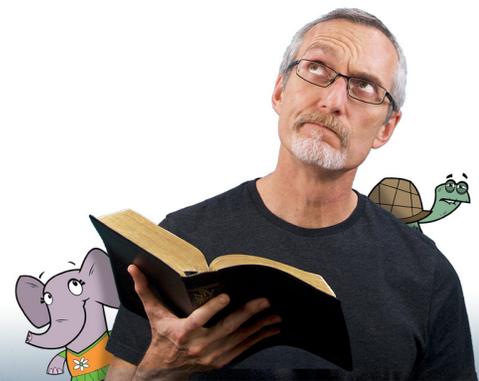
So What?

For toddlers: Help your child see him or herself in a mirror. Ask who your child sees. Then say together, "When we love, people see God!" three times.

For grade schoolers: Talk with your child and identify one person whom he or she would like to "show" God. Help him or her pick an act of love they can use to show God to that person.

For you: Your child learns about God through your actions more than your words. Identify one area of behavior that you'd like to change to better show God to your child.

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Session 12 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 4:13–21

“If God's love is made perfect in us, then we can be without fear on the day God judges us. We will be without fear, because in this world we are like him.” (1 John 4:17, ICB)

- 1. Can you name the three parts of the Trinity?** (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)
- 2. Is Jesus a part of God?** (Nope! Jesus is all God. And so is the Father. And so is the Holy Spirit.)
- 3. When it's time for God to make everyone pay for the bad things they've done, will we get in trouble?** (No way! If we've put our trust in Jesus, we've already been forgiven!)
- 4. No one likes to get in trouble. Can you think of a time you got in trouble? Isn't it great that trusting in Jesus means we'll never get in trouble with God?**

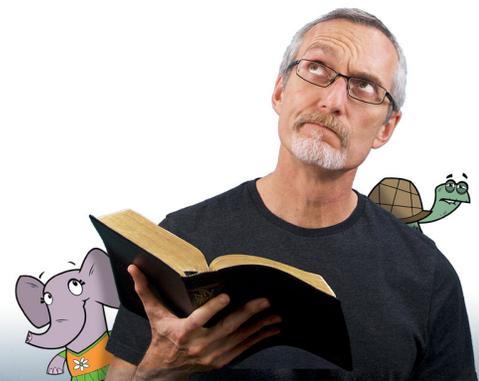
So What?

For toddlers: Help your child see him or herself in a mirror. Say together three times, “When God looks at me, He sees Jesus!”

For grade schoolers: When your child disobeys or misbehaves, take a moment to talk with him or her about God's view of your child. Ask, “Does your disobedience change how God feels about you? Are you in trouble with God?” Follow up the conversation by affirming your love and compassion for your child.

For you: Identify an area you feel guilty—in how you interact with your children, your spouse, or some other behavior. Read 1 John 4:13–21 again by yourself, and remember how God sees you in Jesus.

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Session 13 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 5:1–5

“So the one who conquers the world is the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.” (1 John 5:5, ICB)

- 1. Loving God means obeying His commands. What commands?** (Love God, and love our neighbors. Live the way Jesus taught.)
- 2. What gives us the power to “win against the whispers of the world”?** (Our faith.)
- 3. Does “faith” mean we believe things that aren’t true?** (No. It means we rely on the promise of someone or something. In this case, the promise of Jesus.)
- 4. When do we have to power to win against the world?** (When we put our trust in Jesus’ promise to save us—to give us the “forever kind of life” with God.)
- 5. Does “faith in Jesus” depend on you being strong? Or Jesus being strong? Who has to be the strong one for us to beat the lies of the world?**

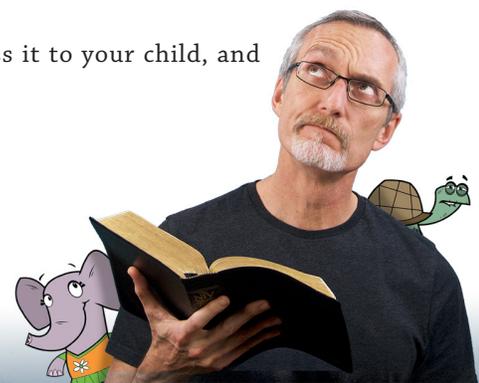
So What?

For toddlers: Help your child stand on something stable—a stool, a box, or a chair. Say together three times, “We trust Jesus’ promises!”

For grade schoolers: Talk with your child about the “world’s whispers” that he or she encounters—temptations, wrong thinking about friends, parents, or family, bad self-image. Ask who helps us overcome those whispers. Pick one to talk to Jesus about, and ask Him to help you be strong.

For you: Identify a “whisper” in your own life that you’re tempted to believe. Confess it to your child, and ask him or her to pray with you that Jesus would help you see the truth.

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Session 14 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's.

Read Again

1 John 5:6–12

“Whoever has the Son has life. But the person who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:12, ICB)

1. **What are John's three witnesses about Jesus?** (Spirit, water, and blood.)
2. **What event is the “witness” of the water?** (Jesus' baptism, when God the Father said Jesus was His Son.)
3. **What event is the “witness” of the blood?** (Jesus rising against after His death on the cross, proving that He was God's Son and has power over death.)
4. **What is the “witness” of the Spirit?** (All the writings about Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that we have in the Bible.)
5. **How do we get the “forever kind of life” with God?** (By believing Jesus is God's Son and that He has beaten death for us by dying on the cross and rising again.)
6. **How does it feel to know all the work it takes for you to have the “forever kind of life” with God has already been done? That Jesus did it all, and all we have to do is accept it?**

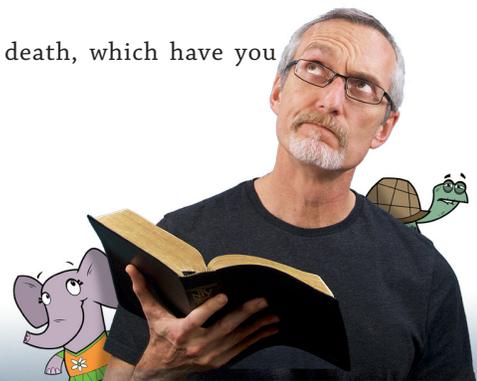
So What?

For toddlers: “Rescue” your child from the floor by sweeping him or her into your arms. Shout together three times, “Jesus saves us!”

For grade schoolers: Offer your child a choice—in food, a place to go play for the afternoon, an activity. After they choose, ask him or her what choice Jesus offers us (life with Him or separation), and ask which choice your child would like to make.

For you: When given the choice between life bought with Jesus' blood, or eternal death, which have you chosen? Take a moment to tell your child why.

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Phil Vischer presents...

faith
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Session 15 Handout

WHAT is a Christian?

15
FUN & EASY
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS
BASED ON
1 John

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of 1 John. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child's..

Read Again

1 John 5:13–21

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding. Now we can know God, the One who is true. And our lives are in that true God and in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God, and he is eternal life.” (1 John 5:20, ICB)

- 1. What does John want us to know for sure?** (That we really can have the “forever kind of life” with God.)
- 2. Why does God sometimes have us wait before He gives us good thing?** (So we learn to focus on God, not on the things we want.)
- 3. What is the only “sin that leads to eternal death”?** (Rejecting Jesus. Saying we don't want Him to save us.)
- 4. If we're following Jesus, do we need to worry about this?** (Nope! We've already been saved to eternal life!)
- 5. What are the “false gods” in our lives today?** (Things like success, money, being popular or beautiful.)
- 6. What does true teaching mean to you? True living? True loving? What was your favorite thing you learned from 1 John? And finally, would you like to have the “forever kind of life” with God, starting right now?**

So What?

For toddlers: Sing “Jesus Loves Me” with your child. Ask him or her if Jesus loves him or her. Tell your child, yes, Jesus does.

For grade schoolers: Ask your child if he or she wants the “forever kind of life” that John talked about. Help your child to talk to God, ask for forgiveness, and trust Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to save.

For you: Which aspect of John stood out to you? True teaching, living, or loving? Pick one area to reflect on for the next week. Talk to your child at least once a day about what you, yourself, have learned.

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