

LIVING IN
JESUS CHRIST



The New Life

Journey Through the Sacred Events

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Epistle of 1st John

Introduction

The Apostle John, was one of the twelve men that the Lord Jesus Christ chose to be his disciple. In the gospel he wrote, John does not refer to himself by name, but with the phrase, 'the disciple whom Jesus' loved'. That is the reason why John is often referred to as the 'beloved disciple'.

In addition to the gospel that is named for him, John also wrote the book of 'Revelation' and three letters that are called 'The Epistles of John'. These letters are also referred to as 1st John, 2nd John and 3rd John.

Saint John wrote the above manuscripts around the end of the first Christian century between 90 and 99 AD. Some scholars believe that the John's gospel was the last book he wrote, shortly after the book of Revelations.

This study entitled 'New Life' is concerned with 'The Epistle of 1st John'. This letter was written to believers in difficult and terrible times. At the completion of the study, the student will learn from John's letter -

- **Fellowship** - the importance of fellowship between believers,
- **Sin** - the fact of sin and the response of the believer,
- **Life** - the meaning of true life,
- **Death** - the meaning of separation from God,
- **Love** - the quality of loving in the life of the believer,
- **Righteous Living** - the meaning of living a righteous life, and
- **Know** - what should a believer know, and how to know.

New life is all about Jesus Christ living in the believer. He that has the Son has life. The objective is to encourage believers to enter into this 'new life', dependent on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Exercise 1: Overview or Perspective of the Letter from Saint John

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Overview of 1st John

Purpose of the Lesson: To read the entire epistle of 1st John to learn an overview of perspective of the entire letter.

Desired Result: The objective is for the student to gain insights about the complete letter. The letter from Saint John should be treated and understood like a letter from a dear friend and godly teacher.

Discourse: The leader will discuss the letter with the students. The students should be permitted to express themselves in any manner that they desire. We are not seeking specific answers in this lesson.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story about becoming a believer in Jesus Christ. The students should be invited to share any thoughts they have about the contents of the letter from Saint John.

1. Overview:

Read the entire book of First John, and record your overall observation or reaction.

Exercise 2: Saint John's Purpose in Writing the Letter

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Purpose or Objective of the Epistle

Purpose of the Lesson: To discover the why Saint John wrote this letter to believers.

Desired Result: The objective is for the students to come to learn about the motivation for Saint John – and how the contents of the letter should be applied in their lives.

The Letter from Saint John: The entire letter will be read once again until the purpose of the letter is discovered.

Discourse: The leader should discuss the student the reason that the purpose of Saint John was important when the letter was written. Why is that purpose important today? Why is the purpose important to each believer.

Testimony: The leader will the people in the small group to share their own personal experience about fellowship.

2. Saint John's Purpose in Writing the Letter: What was John's purpose or objective in writing this book. You may discover more than one.

Chapter 1: (1) What was from the very beginning concerning Jesus Christ - the Word of Life, what we have heard and seen with our own eyes and touched with our hands - (2) and the life was manifested in Jesus, and we have seen and give witness and tell to you the eternal life - Jesus, was with the Father. And that same Jesus was made real to us. (3) What we have seen and heard we declare to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) These things we write to you, so that our joy may be made complete. (5) This is the message we have heard from the Lord and pass on to you. God is light, and in Him there is absolutely no darkness.

Chapter 5: (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My reason is so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Exercise 3: What it Means to Fellowship

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Fellowship

Purpose of the Lesson: To learn what it means to have fellowship with the Father, the Son and each other.

Desired Result: To learn from Saint John about fellowship and to understand how fellowship relates to each person.

Discourse: The leader will discuss what fellowship means with among the small group. What does it mean to have fellowship with family members? What does it mean to have fellowship with friends and neighbors? What does it mean to have fellowship with others? What does it mean to have fellowship with other believers? What does it mean to have fellowship with the Father and the Son?

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story about fellowship and what it means to them. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

3. Fellowship: Read First John and mark every reference to the word **fellowship**. What does John say about fellowship and how does it apply to you?

Chapter 1: (3) What we have seen and heard we declare to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (6) If any one of us say that we have fellowship with the Lord and continues to walk in the darkness, then we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but as we walk in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin.

Exercise 4: What is sin? What did Jesus Christ do about our sin?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Sin

Purpose of the Lesson: To learn about sin. To understand that every person has committed sin. To learn that every person needs to be forgiven of sin. To learn that believers sin. To learn how the believer responds to sin.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to learn the definition of sin, to realize that all have sinned and to learn how the believer should respond to sin.

Discourse: The leader will discuss the meaning of sin with the small group. The group will share what Saint John has to say to believers about sin.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader and others will share their experience of conversion – of believing and trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation from sin.

4. Sin: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **sin**. Define the word **propitiation**. What do you learn about sin from John? What is the definition of sin?

Chapter 1: (7) but as we walk in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we do not have sin, then we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, Jesus Christ is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Jesus Christ a liar, and His word is not in us.

Chapter 2: 1) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that all of you may not sin. And if anyone of us sins, we have an Advocate with the God the Father – that Advocate Jesus Christ the righteous; (2) and Jesus Himself is the propitiation and paid for our sins; and for those of the whole world.

Chapter 2: (12) I am writing to you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for Jesus' name's sake.

Chapter 3: (4) Everyone who commits and practices sin also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (5) You know that Jesus Christ appeared in order to take away sins; and there is no sin in Him. (6) No one who abides and remains in Jesus Christ sins; the one who sins has not seen Him or does not knows Him. (7) Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteous, is righteous just like Jesus Christ. (8) The one who practices sin is of the devil; the devil has sinned from the very beginning. The Jesus Christ, the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil. (9) No one who is born of God practices sin. This is because the seed of Jesus Christ abides in child of God. The child of God cannot sin because he or she is born of God.

Chapter 5: (16) If anyone sees his brother or sister committing a sin not leading to death, that person shall pray to God for that brother or sister. God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should make requests for this. (17) All unrighteousness is sin, and yet there is a sin that does not lead to death. (18) We know that no one who is born of God sins. The person who was born of God is kept by God and the evil one does not touch him.

Propitiation: Signifies an expiation – a means whereby sin is covered and remitted. Jesus Christ Himself through the expiatory sacrifice of His death is the personal means by whom God shows mercy to the sinner who believes on Christ as one thus provided. Jesus Christ died for all.

Sin: All have sinned. Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin if we confess and forsake our sins. God does not want us to sin. Our sins are forgiven for His names sake. All unrighteousness is sin. Sin is lawlessness. No one who abides in God sins. No one born of God practices sin. Believers practice righteousness – love brothers. There is a sin that leads to death. Sin leading to death: rejection of God's grace (Jesus Christ) and blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Exercise 5: What is life?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Life

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

5. Life: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **life**. What does John tell us about life? What is the definition of life that you understand from reading this epistle?

Chapter 1: (1) What was from the very beginning concerning Jesus Christ - the Word of Life, what we have heard and seen with our own eyes and touched with our hands - (2) and the life was manifested in Jesus, and we have seen and give witness and tell to you the eternal life - Jesus, was with the Father. And that same Jesus was made real to us.

Chapter 2: (16) The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, (all that is in the world) is not from God the Father, but is from the world. and in God the Father. (25) This is the promise which Jesus Christ Himself made to us: that promise is eternal life.

Chapter 3: (14) The way we know that we have passed out of death into life, is because we love the brethren. The one who does not love abides in death. (15) Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in such a person. (16) We know love because Jesus Christ laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for each other.

Chapter 5: (11) And the witness of God is this; God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) The one who has the Son has the life, the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My reason is so that you may know that you have eternal life.

(16) If anyone sees his brother or sister committing a sin not leading to death, that person shall pray to God for that brother or sister. God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should make requests for this. (20) We also know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding. Jesus Christ has done this so that we might know Him who is true and we are in God who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Note:

Jesus is the 'word of life' – life manifested by Jesus Christ. Jesus (with the Father) proclaimed eternal life. Pride of life is not from God. God's promise is eternal life. Jesus laid down His life for us – we should do likewise for brothers. We know we have eternal life. Life comes from God.

Exercise 6: What is death – physical and spiritual?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Death

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

6. Death: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **death**. What do you learn about death? What is the definition of death? How does it compare with life?

Chapter 3: (14) The way we know that we have passed out of death into life, is because we love the brethren. The one who does not love abides in death.

Chapter 5: (12) The one who has the Son has the life, the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Note:

Love of the brothers is the evidence that we have passed from death to life. He who does not love abides in death. He who has the Son has life. Death is separation from God. Life is Jesus Christ.

Exercise 7: What is love? How is love for God expressed in our behavior?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Love

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

7. Love: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **love**. What do you learn about love from John? What is the definition of love? How is love recognized? How is love manifested in life?

Chapter 2: (4) The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; (5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. . . (10) The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. . . (15) Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Chapter 3: (1) See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.

(10) By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious. anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

(11) For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. (14) We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. (15) Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (16) We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

(17) But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (18) Little children, let us not love with word with tongue, but in deed and truth. (23) And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

Chapter 4: (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (16) And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love, abides in God, and God abides in him.

(17) By this love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in the world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

(19) We love, because He first loved us. (20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar, for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. (21) And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Chapter 5: (1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Exercise 8: What does it mean to lead a righteous life?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Righteous Living

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

8. Righteous Living: After we repent and become converted, does it make any difference what we do or how we live?

(1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. (Matthew 7:13)

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord', and not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on a rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." (Luke 6:46-49)

What do these scriptures tell us about going to heaven?

Does profession to believe mean that a person is converted?

(2) What do the following scriptures teach us about behavior and obedience.

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load." (Galatians 5:19-21; 6:1-5)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel." "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you

have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 1:27; 4:8,9)

Other References:

Colossians 1:10; 3:1-6

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Titus 2:11-15; 3:3-8, 14

James 1:23-27

1 Peter 1:2, 13-19; 2:11, 12, 24

2 Peter 1:5-11

1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6; 5:1-3

Revelation 21:7,8, 22-27

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22)

This scripture describes the righteous life. What are the characteristics? Where do we find the power to live this kind of life?

Exercise 9: Know – What are we to know? How are we to know?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Knowing – What to Know, How to Know.

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

9. Know: Read First John again (6th time) and mark every reference to the word **know** or **knows**. What are you supposed to know, and how are you supposed to know it?

(It is suggested that you take one or more blank sheets of paper and divide the paper into two columns. In the first column, write what you are supposed to "know". In the second column, write "how you are suppose to know".)

What Am I to Know?

2:4 know Him (God) ...

:11 If do not know ...

:13 Know Him, Father ...

How Am I to Know?

By keeping His commandments.

By hating your brother.

God abides in me.

What Am I to Know?

:18 Know this is the last hour ...
:20 Know about truth ...
:21 Know truth ...
:29 Know that God is righteous ...

3:2 The world does not know us ...

:2 When He appears ...
:6 We know Him ...
:14 We have passed out of death to life ...
:15 Those who hate are as murderers ...

:16 Love ...

:19 We know we are of the truth ...
:24 We know that God abides in us ...

4:2 We know the Spirit of God ...

:6 We know God ...
 We know spirit of truth and error ...
4:7 We know God ...
:8 He who does not know God ...
:13 We know that we abide in Him

:16 We know the love of God ...

How Am I to Know?

Many Anti-Christ's have arisen.
I have the anointing (Holy Spirit).
I have the anointing (Holy Spirit).
Everyone practicing righteousness
is born of Him.

Because - world does not know
Him.

We shall be like Him.

We abide in Him without sin.

We love the brethren.

Hatred of brothers.

No murderer has eternal life ...
Hatred of brothers.

Jesus laid down His life for us.

We ought to lay down our lives
for the brethren.

We love in deed and truth.

By the Spirit whom He has given
us.

Galatians 5:22 – Fruit of the
Spirit

Confession that Jesus Christ has
come in the flesh and is from
God.

We listen to the Apostles.

We know God.

We love one another.

Does not Love.

Because of the Gift of the
and He in us ... Holy Spirit

We confessed that Jesus is the
Son of God.

What Am I to Know?

5:2 We know we love the children

:13 We know we have eternal life ...

:15 We know God hears us ...

:17 We know that no one born of God sins..

:19 We know we are of God

:20 We know that the Son of God
has come ...

How Am I to Know?

When we love God and observe
His of God commandments.

By the things written.

When we ask according to His
will.

We know we have the requests ...

By their righteous life.

We know the world is in the
power of the evil one.

Spirit ... Water ... Blood

We know Jesus Christ – True God –
Eternal Life.

The First Epistle of John

Chapter 1

(1) What was from the very beginning concerning Jesus Christ - the Word of Life, what we have heard and seen with our own eyes and touched with our hands - (2) and the life was manifested in Jesus, and we have seen and give witness and tell to you the eternal life - Jesus, was with the Father. And that same Jesus was made real to us. (3) What we have seen and heard we declare to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) These things we write to you, so that our joy may be made complete.

(5) This is the message we have heard from the Lord and pass on to you. God is light, and in Him there is absolutely no darkness. (6) If any one of us say that we have fellowship with the Lord and continues to walk in the darkness, then we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but as we walk in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we do not have sin, then we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, Jesus Christ is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Jesus Christ a liar, and His word is not in us.

Chapter 2

(1) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that all of you may not sin. And if anyone of us sins, we have an Advocate with the God the Father - that Advocate Jesus Christ the righteous; (2) and Jesus Himself is the propitiation and paid for our sins; and for those of the whole world. (3) The way we know that we have come to know the Lord is if we keep His commandments. (4) The person who says, "I have come to know the Lord," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. (5) The one who keeps the Lord's word, in that person the love of God has truly been perfected. This is the way we know that we are in Jesus Christ; (6) the one who says he abides in Jesus Christ ought to walk in the same manner as JESUS CHRIST walked.

(7) Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment; a commandment that you have had from the beginning; that old commandment is the Word that you have heard. (8) And yet, I am writing a new commandment to you. That new commandment is true in Jesus Christ and also in you. This is true because the darkness is passing away, and the true light - Jesus Christ, is already shining. (9) The one who says he is in the light and at the same time hates his brother is in the darkness. (10) The one who loves his brother or sister abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling. (11) But the one who hates his brother or sister walks in the darkness, and does not know the destination because the darkness has blinded the eyes.

(12) I am writing to you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for Jesus' name's sake. (13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know the Lord who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome Satan - the evil one. I have written you, children, because you know God the Father. (14) I have written to you, fathers, because you know Jesus Christ who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains and abides in you, and you have overcome Satan.

(15) Do not love the world, and do not love the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of God the Father is not in him. (16) The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, (all that is in the world) is not from God the Father, but is from the world. (17) The world is passing away, along with its lusts; it is the one who does the will of God abides forever.

(18) Children, it is the very last hour. You have heard the antichrist is coming, even at this very moment many antichrists have arisen. Because of this, we know that it is the last hour. (19) Those antichrists went out from us, but they were not really one of us. If they had been one of us, they would have remained with us. But no, they went out from us, and this has shown that they all are not of us. (20) You are different because you have an anointing from the Holy One and you all you know comes from the Holy One.

(21) I have not written to you because you do not know the truth. I have written to you because you do know it, and it is certain no lie is of the truth. (22) The one who is the liar is the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ. This is the antichrist, the same one who denies God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. (23) Whoever denies Jesus Christ the Son does not have God the Father; the one who confesses Jesus Christ the Son has God the Father also. (24) As for you, let all that you have received from the beginning, abide and remain in you which you. If what you heard from the beginning abides and remains in you, you will abide in Jesus Christ the Son and in God the Father.

(25) This is the promise that Jesus Christ Himself made to us: that promise is eternal life. (26) I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. (27) And as for you, you have the anointing that which you have received from The Lord and this anointing abides in you. Because of this, you have no need for anyone to teach you; His anointing teaches you about all things. The anointing from Jesus Christ is true and is not a lie, and just as you have been taught - you abide in Him. (28) And now, little children, abide and remain in Him, so that when Jesus Christ appears, we may have confidence and not have to shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (29) If you know that Jesus Christ is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Chapter 3

(1) Just look how great a love God the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called and are children of God. This reason the world does not know us, because it did not know God. (2) Beloved, we are children of God, and it has not yet appeared what we shall be in the future. We do know that, when Jesus Christ appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see the Lord just as He is. (3) Everyone who has this hope fixed on Jesus Christ purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(4) Everyone who commits and practices sin also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (5) You know that Jesus Christ appeared in order to take away sins; and there is no sin in Him. (6) No one who abides and remains in Jesus Christ sins; the one who sins has not seen Him or does not knows Him. (7) Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteous, is righteous just like Jesus Christ. (8) The one who practices sin is of the devil; the devil has sinned from the very beginning. The Jesus Christ, the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil. (9) No one who is born of God practices sin. This is because the seed of Jesus Christ abides in child of God. The child of God cannot sin because he or she is born of God.

(10) Because of this, the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious. Any person who does not practice righteousness is not of God. The same is true for the one who does not love his brother. (11) This is the message which you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, (12) not the way Cain was, who was of the evil one, and killed - murdered his brother Abel. Why did Cain kill Abel? Cain murdered Abel because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

(13) Do not marvel, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. (14) The way we know that we have passed out of death into life, is because we love the brethren. The one who does not love abides in death. (15) Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in such a person. (16) We know love because Jesus Christ laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for each other. (17) But anyone who has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide and remain in him?

(18) Little children, let us not love with words that come out of our mouths. Rather, let us love in good deeds and truth. (19) We shall know by those good deeds and truly that we are of the truth. We shall assure our heart before the Lord (20) when our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

(21) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, that is because we have confidence before God. (22) It is also true that whenever we ask we receive from the Lord, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. (23) And this is the God's commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. (24) And the one who keeps His commandments abides and remains in Jesus Christ, and Jesus

Christ is in the one who keeps His commandments. We know that we abide in the Lord because He has given us the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 4

(1) Beloved, do not believe every spirit! Always test the spirits to see if they are from God. This is necessary because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) Here is the way you will know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; (3) and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh is not from God. Such a spirit is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that is coming. Indeed, that spirit of antichrist is already in the world. (4) You are from God, little children, and you have overcome the antichrists because greater is the Holy Spirit who is in you than he who is in the world. (5) The antichrists are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. (6) We are from God and know that God listens to us. This is the way we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

(7) Beloved let us love one another; love is from God. Everyone who loves others is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love others does not know God, for God is love. (9) The way the love of God was manifested in us, was that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, it is not that we first love God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(11) Beloved, because God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has beheld or seen God at any time; if we love one another, then God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (13) We know that we abide in God and He in us, because He has given us His Holy Spirit. (14) And we have beheld and bear witness that God the Father has sent the Son – Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the world.

(15) Whoever confesses that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God abides in that person, and that person is in God. (16) We have come to know and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love, abides in God, and God abides in him.

(17) This love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because as the Holy Spirit is in the world, so also are we in the world. (18) There is no fear in love; in fact, perfect love casts out fear. Fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (19) We love God because He first loved us. (20) If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother or sister, such a person is a liar, for the one who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen, cannot love God who has not been seen. (21) This is a commandment we have from Him: the one who loves God should love his brother and sister also.

Chapter 5

(1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ - the Messiah, that person is born of God. Whoever loves God the Father also loves Jesus Christ - the child born of Him.

(2) The way we know that we love the children of God is when we love God and observe His commandments. (3) The love of God is visible as we keep His commandments; God's commandments are for our good and are not a burden.

(4) Everyone who is born of God overcomes the world; it is our faith that has given us the victory that has overcome the world. (5) The one who overcomes the world is the same one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (6) Jesus Christ is the one who came by water and blood.

(7) It is the Holy Spirit who bears witness of Jesus Christ because the Holy Spirit is the truth. (8) There are three that bear witness concerning Jesus Christ; the Holy Spirit and the water and the blood - the three are in agreement. (9) The witness of God is greater than the witness of men. The witness of God is this; that He has borne witness concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. (10) The one who believes in the Jesus Christ, the Son of God has the witness in himself. The one who does not believe the witness God has made God a liar because he has not believed in the witness that God has made concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. (11) And the witness of God is this; God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

(12) The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My reason is so that you may know that you have eternal life. (14) This is the confidence that we have before God, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) Now if we know that God hears us in whatever we ask, we also know that we have the requests that we have asked from Him.

(16) If anyone sees his brother or sister committing a sin not leading to death, that person shall pray to God for that brother or sister. God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should make requests for this. (17) All unrighteousness is sin, and yet there is a sin that does not lead to death. (18) We know that no one who is born of God sins. The person who was born of God is kept by God and the evil one does not touch him. (19) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (20) We also know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding. Jesus Christ has done this so that we might know Him who is true and we are in God who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (21) Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

End of the paraphrase of the 1st Epistle of John

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Epistle of 1st John

Introduction

The Apostle John, was one of the twelve men that the Lord Jesus Christ chose to be his disciple. In the gospel he wrote, John does not refer to himself by name, but with the phrase, 'the disciple whom Jesus' loved'. That is the reason why John is often referred to as the 'beloved disciple'.

In addition to the gospel that is named for him, John also wrote the book of 'Revelation' and three letters that are called 'The Epistles of John'. These letters are also referred to as 1st John, 2nd John and 3rd John.

Saint John wrote the above manuscripts around the end of the first Christian century between 90 and 99 AD. Some scholars believe that the John's gospel was the last book he wrote, shortly after the book of Revelations.

This study entitled 'New Life' is concerned with 'The Epistle of 1st John'. This letter was written to believers in difficult and terrible times. At the completion of the study, the student will learn from John's letter -

- **Fellowship** - the importance of fellowship between believers,
- **Sin** - the fact of sin and the response of the believer,
- **Life** - the meaning of true life,
- **Death** - the meaning of separation from God,
- **Love** - the quality of loving in the life of the believer,
- **Righteous Living** - the meaning of living a righteous life, and
- **Know** - what should a believer know, and how to know.

New life is all about Jesus Christ living in the believer. He that has the Son has life. The objective is to encourage believers to enter into this 'new life', dependent on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Exercise 1: Overview or Perspective of the Letter from Saint John

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Overview of 1st John

Purpose of the Lesson: To read the entire epistle of 1st John to learn an overview of perspective of the entire letter.

Desired Result: The objective is for the student to gain insights about the complete letter. The letter from Saint John should be treated and understood like a letter from a dear friend and godly teacher.

Discourse: The leader will discuss the letter with the students. The students should be permitted to express themselves in any manner that they desire. We are not seeking specific answers in this lesson.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story about becoming a believer in Jesus Christ. The students should be invited to share any thoughts they have about the contents of the letter from Saint John.

1. Overview:

Read the entire book of First John, and record your overall observation or reaction.

Exercise 2: Saint John's Purpose in Writing the Letter

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Purpose or Objective of the Epistle

Purpose of the Lesson: To discover the why Saint John wrote this letter to believers.

Desired Result: The objective is for the students to come to learn about the motivation for Saint John – and how the contents of the letter should be applied in their lives.

The Letter from Saint John: The entire letter will be read once again until the purpose of the letter is discovered.

Discourse: The leader should discuss the student the reason that the purpose of Saint John was important when the letter was written. Why is that purpose important today? Why is the purpose important to each believer.

Testimony: The leader will the people in the small group to share their own personal experience about fellowship.

2. Saint John's Purpose in Writing the Letter: What was John's purpose or objective in writing this book. You may discover more than one.

Chapter 1: (1) What was from the very beginning concerning Jesus Christ - the Word of Life, what we have heard and seen with our own eyes and touched with our hands - (2) and the life was manifested in Jesus, and we have seen and give witness and tell to you the eternal life - Jesus, was with the Father. And that same Jesus was made real to us. (3) What we have seen and heard we declare to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) These things we write to you, so that our joy may be made complete. (5) This is the message we have heard from the Lord and pass on to you. God is light, and in Him there is absolutely no darkness.

Chapter 5: (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My reason is so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Exercise 3: What it Means to Fellowship

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Fellowship

Purpose of the Lesson: To learn what it means to have fellowship with the Father, the Son and each other.

Desired Result: To learn from Saint John about fellowship and to understand how fellowship relates to each person.

Discourse: The leader will discuss what fellowship means with among the small group. What does it mean to have fellowship with family members? What does it mean to have fellowship with friends and neighbors? What does it mean to have fellowship with others? What does it mean to have fellowship with other believers? What does it mean to have fellowship with the Father and the Son?

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story about fellowship and what it means to them. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

3. Fellowship: Read First John and mark every reference to the word **fellowship**. What does John say about fellowship and how does it apply to you?

Chapter 1: (3) What we have seen and heard we declare to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (6) If any one of us say that we have fellowship with the Lord and continues to walk in the darkness, then we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but as we walk in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin.

Exercise 4: What is sin? What did Jesus Christ do about our sin?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Sin

Purpose of the Lesson: To learn about sin. To understand that every person has committed sin. To learn that every person needs to be forgiven of sin. To learn that believers sin. To learn how the believer responds to sin.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to learn the definition of sin, to realize that all have sinned and to learn how the believer should respond to sin.

Discourse: The leader will discuss the meaning of sin with the small group. The group will share what Saint John has to say to believers about sin.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader and others will share their experience of conversion – of believing and trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation from sin.

4. Sin: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **sin**. Define the word **propitiation**. What do you learn about sin from John? What is the definition of sin?

Chapter 1: (7) but as we walk in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we do not have sin, then we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, Jesus Christ is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Jesus Christ a liar, and His word is not in us.

Chapter 2: 1) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that all of you may not sin. And if anyone of us sins, we have an Advocate with the God the Father – that Advocate Jesus Christ the righteous; (2) and Jesus Himself is the propitiation and paid for our sins; and for those of the whole world.

Chapter 2: (12) I am writing to you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for Jesus' name's sake.

Chapter 3: (4) Everyone who commits and practices sin also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (5) You know that Jesus Christ appeared in order to take away sins; and there is no sin in Him. (6) No one who abides and remains in Jesus Christ sins; the one who sins has not seen Him or does not knows Him. (7) Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteous, is righteous just like Jesus Christ. (8) The one who practices sin is of the devil; the devil has sinned from the very beginning. The Jesus Christ, the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil. (9) No one who is born of God practices sin. This is because the seed of Jesus Christ abides in child of God. The child of God cannot sin because he or she is born of God.

Chapter 5: (16) If anyone sees his brother or sister committing a sin not leading to death, that person shall pray to God for that brother or sister. God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should make requests for this. (17) All unrighteousness is sin, and yet there is a sin that does not lead to death. (18) We know that no one who is born of God sins. The person who was born of God is kept by God and the evil one does not touch him.

Propitiation: Signifies an expiation – a means whereby sin is covered and remitted. Jesus Christ Himself through the expiatory sacrifice of His death is the personal means by whom God shows mercy to the sinner who believes on Christ as one thus provided. Jesus Christ died for all.

Sin: All have sinned. Jesus Christ cleanses us from sin if we confess and forsake our sins. God does not want us to sin. Our sins are forgiven for His names sake. All unrighteousness is sin. Sin is lawlessness. No one who abides in God sins. No one born of God practices sin. Believers practice righteousness – love brothers. There is a sin that leads to death. Sin leading to death: rejection of God's grace (Jesus Christ) and blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Exercise 5: What is life?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Life

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

5. Life: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **life**. What does John tell us about life? What is the definition of life that you understand from reading this epistle?

Chapter 1: (1) What was from the very beginning concerning Jesus Christ - the Word of Life, what we have heard and seen with our own eyes and touched with our hands - (2) and the life was manifested in Jesus, and we have seen and give witness and tell to you the eternal life - Jesus, was with the Father. And that same Jesus was made real to us.

Chapter 2: (16) The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, (all that is in the world) is not from God the Father, but is from the world. and in God the Father. (25) This is the promise which Jesus Christ Himself made to us: that promise is eternal life.

Chapter 3: (14) The way we know that we have passed out of death into life, is because we love the brethren. The one who does not love abides in death. (15) Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in such a person. (16) We know love because Jesus Christ laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for each other.

Chapter 5: (11) And the witness of God is this; God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) The one who has the Son has the life, the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My reason is so that you may know that you have eternal life.

(16) If anyone sees his brother or sister committing a sin not leading to death, that person shall pray to God for that brother or sister. God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should make requests for this. (20) We also know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding. Jesus Christ has done this so that we might know Him who is true and we are in God who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Note:

Jesus is the 'word of life' – life manifested by Jesus Christ. Jesus (with the Father) proclaimed eternal life. Pride of life is not from God. God's promise is eternal life. Jesus laid down His life for us – we should do likewise for brothers. We know we have eternal life. Life comes from God.

Exercise 6: What is death – physical and spiritual?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Death

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

6. Death: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **death**. What do you learn about death? What is the definition of death? How does it compare with life?

Chapter 3: (14) The way we know that we have passed out of death into life, is because we love the brethren. The one who does not love abides in death.

Chapter 5: (12) The one who has the Son has the life, the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Note:

Love of the brothers is the evidence that we have passed from death to life. He who does not love abides in death. He who has the Son has life. Death is separation from God. Life is Jesus Christ.

Exercise 7: What is love? How is love for God expressed in our behavior?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Love

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

7. Love: Read First John again and mark every reference to the word **love**. What do you learn about love from John? What is the definition of love? How is love recognized? How is love manifested in life?

Chapter 2: (4) The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; (5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. . . (10) The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. . . (15) Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

Chapter 3: (1) See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.

(10) By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious. anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

(11) For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. (14) We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. (15) Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (16) We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

(17) But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (18) Little children, let us not love with word with tongue, but in deed and truth. (23) And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

Chapter 4: (7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, not that we love God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (16) And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love, abides in God, and God abides in him.

(17) By this love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in the world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

(19) We love, because He first loved us. (20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar, for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. (21) And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Chapter 5: (1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Exercise 8: What does it mean to lead a righteous life?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Righteous Living

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

8. Righteous Living: After we repent and become converted, does it make any difference what we do or how we live?

(1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. (Matthew 7:13)

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord', and not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on a rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." (Luke 6:46-49)

What do these scriptures tell us about going to heaven?

Does profession to believe mean that a person is converted?

(2) What do the following scriptures teach us about behavior and obedience.

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load." (Galatians 5:19-21; 6:1-5)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel." "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you

have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 1:27; 4:8,9)

Other References:

Colossians 1:10; 3:1-6

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Titus 2:11-15; 3:3-8, 14

James 1:23-27

1 Peter 1:2, 13-19; 2:11, 12, 24

2 Peter 1:5-11

1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-6; 5:1-3

Revelation 21:7,8, 22-27

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22)

This scripture describes the righteous life. What are the characteristics? Where do we find the power to live this kind of life?

Exercise 9: Know – What are we to know? How are we to know?

Organization of the Lesson

Lesson Subject: Knowing – What to Know, How to Know.

Purpose of the Lesson: To declare the truth that God loves every individual in a personal way.

Desired Result: The objective is for the individuals to come to accept the idea that the God of creation love each one personally.

Bible Story: The story of creation will be told as revealed in the Bible – in the book of Genesis.

Discourse: The discourse is the information that the leader will share with the group in his or her own words. Each section of the lesson has a title that the leader will emphasize or state as the most important concept.

Bible Reading or Quotations from the Bible: The discourse section of the lesson will include scriptures from the Bible that the leader will read.

Testimony: The leader or other believers will tell their own personal story. Each story will tell about an experience that demonstrates the purpose of the lesson.

9. Know: Read First John again (6th time) and mark every reference to the word **know** or **knows**. What are you supposed to know, and how are you supposed to know it?

(It is suggested that you take one or more blank sheets of paper and divide the paper into two columns. In the first column, write what you are supposed to "know". In the second column, write "how you are suppose to know".)

What Am I to Know?

2:4 know Him (God) ...

:11 If do not know ...

:13 Know Him, Father ...

How Am I to Know?

By keeping His commandments.

By hating your brother.

God abides in me.

What Am I to Know?

:18 Know this is the last hour ...
:20 Know about truth ...
:21 Know truth ...
:29 Know that God is righteous ...

3:2 The world does not know us ...

:2 When He appears ...
:6 We know Him ...
:14 We have passed out of death to life ...
:15 Those who hate are as murderers ...

:16 Love ...

:19 We know we are of the truth ...
:24 We know that God abides in us ...

4:2 We know the Spirit of God ...

:6 We know God ...
 We know spirit of truth and error ...
4:7 We know God ...
:8 He who does not know God ...
:13 We know that we abide in Him

:16 We know the love of God ...

How Am I to Know?

Many Anti-Christ's have arisen.
I have the anointing (Holy Spirit).
I have the anointing (Holy Spirit).
Everyone practicing righteousness
is born of Him.

Because - world does not know
Him.

We shall be like Him.

We abide in Him without sin.

We love the brethren.

Hatred of brothers.

No murderer has eternal life ...
Hatred of brothers.

Jesus laid down His life for us.

We ought to lay down our lives
for the brethren.

We love in deed and truth.

By the Spirit whom He has given
us.

Galatians 5:22 – Fruit of the
Spirit

Confession that Jesus Christ has
come in the flesh and is from
God.

We listen to the Apostles.

We know God.

We love one another.

Does not Love.

Because of the Gift of the
and He in us ... Holy Spirit

We confessed that Jesus is the
Son of God.

What Am I to Know?

5:2 We know we love the children

:13 We know we have eternal life ...

:15 We know God hears us ...

:17 We know that no one born of God sins..

:19 We know we are of God

:20 We know that the Son of God
has come ...

How Am I to Know?

When we love God and observe
His of God commandments.

By the things written.

When we ask according to His
will.

We know we have the requests ...

By their righteous life.

We know the world is in the
power of the evil one.

Spirit ... Water ... Blood

We know Jesus Christ – True God –
Eternal Life.

The First Epistle of John

Chapter 1

(1) What was from the very beginning concerning Jesus Christ - the Word of Life, what we have heard and seen with our own eyes and touched with our hands - (2) and the life was manifested in Jesus, and we have seen and give witness and tell to you the eternal life - Jesus, was with the Father. And that same Jesus was made real to us. (3) What we have seen and heard we declare to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) These things we write to you, so that our joy may be made complete.

(5) This is the message we have heard from the Lord and pass on to you. God is light, and in Him there is absolutely no darkness. (6) If any one of us say that we have fellowship with the Lord and continues to walk in the darkness, then we lie and do not practice the truth; (7) but as we walk in the light as Jesus Himself is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say that we do not have sin, then we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, Jesus Christ is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Jesus Christ a liar, and His word is not in us.

Chapter 2

(1) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that all of you may not sin. And if anyone of us sins, we have an Advocate with the God the Father - that Advocate Jesus Christ the righteous; (2) and Jesus Himself is the propitiation and paid for our sins; and for those of the whole world. (3) The way we know that we have come to know the Lord is if we keep His commandments. (4) The person who says, "I have come to know the Lord," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. (5) The one who keeps the Lord's word, in that person the love of God has truly been perfected. This is the way we know that we are in Jesus Christ; (6) the one who says he abides in Jesus Christ ought to walk in the same manner as JESUS CHRIST walked.

(7) Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment; a commandment that you have had from the beginning; that old commandment is the Word that you have heard. (8) And yet, I am writing a new commandment to you. That new commandment is true in Jesus Christ and also in you. This is true because the darkness is passing away, and the true light - Jesus Christ, is already shining. (9) The one who says he is in the light and at the same time hates his brother is in the darkness. (10) The one who loves his brother or sister abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling. (11) But the one who hates his brother or sister walks in the darkness, and does not know the destination because the darkness has blinded the eyes.

(12) I am writing to you little children, because your sins are forgiven you for Jesus' name's sake. (13) I am writing to you, fathers, because you know the Lord who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome Satan - the evil one. I have written you, children, because you know God the Father. (14) I have written to you, fathers, because you know Jesus Christ who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains and abides in you, and you have overcome Satan.

(15) Do not love the world, and do not love the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of God the Father is not in him. (16) The lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, (all that is in the world) is not from God the Father, but is from the world. (17) The world is passing away, along with its lusts; it is the one who does the will of God abides forever.

(18) Children, it is the very last hour. You have heard the antichrist is coming, even at this very moment many antichrists have arisen. Because of this, we know that it is the last hour. (19) Those antichrists went out from us, but they were not really one of us. If they had been one of us, they would have remained with us. But no, they went out from us, and this has shown that they all are not of us. (20) You are different because you have an anointing from the Holy One and you all you know comes from the Holy One.

(21) I have not written to you because you do not know the truth. I have written to you because you do know it, and it is certain no lie is of the truth. (22) The one who is the liar is the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ. This is the antichrist, the same one who denies God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. (23) Whoever denies Jesus Christ the Son does not have God the Father; the one who confesses Jesus Christ the Son has God the Father also. (24) As for you, let all that you have received from the beginning, abide and remain in you which you. If what you heard from the beginning abides and remains in you, you will abide in Jesus Christ the Son and in God the Father.

(25) This is the promise that Jesus Christ Himself made to us: that promise is eternal life. (26) I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. (27) And as for you, you have the anointing that which you have received from The Lord and this anointing abides in you. Because of this, you have no need for anyone to teach you; His anointing teaches you about all things. The anointing from Jesus Christ is true and is not a lie, and just as you have been taught - you abide in Him. (28) And now, little children, abide and remain in Him, so that when Jesus Christ appears, we may have confidence and not have to shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. (29) If you know that Jesus Christ is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Chapter 3

(1) Just look how great a love God the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called and are children of God. This reason the world does not know us, because it did not know God. (2) Beloved, we are children of God, and it has not yet appeared what we shall be in the future. We do know that, when Jesus Christ appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see the Lord just as He is. (3) Everyone who has this hope fixed on Jesus Christ purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(4) Everyone who commits and practices sin also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. (5) You know that Jesus Christ appeared in order to take away sins; and there is no sin in Him. (6) No one who abides and remains in Jesus Christ sins; the one who sins has not seen Him or does not knows Him. (7) Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteous, is righteous just like Jesus Christ. (8) The one who practices sin is of the devil; the devil has sinned from the very beginning. The Jesus Christ, the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil. (9) No one who is born of God practices sin. This is because the seed of Jesus Christ abides in child of God. The child of God cannot sin because he or she is born of God.

(10) Because of this, the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious. Any person who does not practice righteousness is not of God. The same is true for the one who does not love his brother. (11) This is the message which you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, (12) not the way Cain was, who was of the evil one, and killed - murdered his brother Abel. Why did Cain kill Abel? Cain murdered Abel because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

(13) Do not marvel, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. (14) The way we know that we have passed out of death into life, is because we love the brethren. The one who does not love abides in death. (15) Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in such a person. (16) We know love because Jesus Christ laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for each other. (17) But anyone who has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide and remain in him?

(18) Little children, let us not love with words that come out of our mouths. Rather, let us love in good deeds and truth. (19) We shall know by those good deeds and truly that we are of the truth. We shall assure our heart before the Lord (20) when our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

(21) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, that is because we have confidence before God. (22) It is also true that whenever we ask we receive from the Lord, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. (23) And this is the God's commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. (24) And the one who keeps His commandments abides and remains in Jesus Christ, and Jesus

Christ is in the one who keeps His commandments. We know that we abide in the Lord because He has given us the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 4

(1) Beloved, do not believe every spirit! Always test the spirits to see if they are from God. This is necessary because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) Here is the way you will know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; (3) and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus has come in the flesh is not from God. Such a spirit is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that is coming. Indeed, that spirit of antichrist is already in the world. (4) You are from God, little children, and you have overcome the antichrists because greater is the Holy Spirit who is in you than he who is in the world. (5) The antichrists are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. (6) We are from God and know that God listens to us. This is the way we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

(7) Beloved let us love one another; love is from God. Everyone who loves others is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love others does not know God, for God is love. (9) The way the love of God was manifested in us, was that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, it is not that we first love God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(11) Beloved, because God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (12) No one has beheld or seen God at any time; if we love one another, then God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. (13) We know that we abide in God and He in us, because He has given us His Holy Spirit. (14) And we have beheld and bear witness that God the Father has sent the Son – Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of the world.

(15) Whoever confesses that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God abides in that person, and that person is in God. (16) We have come to know and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love, abides in God, and God abides in him.

(17) This love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because as the Holy Spirit is in the world, so also are we in the world. (18) There is no fear in love; in fact, perfect love casts out fear. Fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. (19) We love God because He first loved us. (20) If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother or sister, such a person is a liar, for the one who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen, cannot love God who has not been seen. (21) This is a commandment we have from Him: the one who loves God should love his brother and sister also.

Chapter 5

(1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ - the Messiah, that person is born of God. Whoever loves God the Father also loves Jesus Christ - the child born of Him.

(2) The way we know that we love the children of God is when we love God and observe His commandments. (3) The love of God is visible as we keep His commandments; God's commandments are for our good and are not a burden.

(4) Everyone who is born of God overcomes the world; it is our faith that has given us the victory that has overcome the world. (5) The one who overcomes the world is the same one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (6) Jesus Christ is the one who came by water and blood.

(7) It is the Holy Spirit who bears witness of Jesus Christ because the Holy Spirit is the truth. (8) There are three that bear witness concerning Jesus Christ; the Holy Spirit and the water and the blood - the three are in agreement. (9) The witness of God is greater than the witness of men. The witness of God is this; that He has borne witness concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. (10) The one who believes in the Jesus Christ, the Son of God has the witness in himself. The one who does not believe the witness God has made God a liar because he has not believed in the witness that God has made concerning His Son, Jesus Christ. (11) And the witness of God is this; God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

(12) The one who has the Son has the life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. My reason is so that you may know that you have eternal life. (14) This is the confidence that we have before God, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) Now if we know that God hears us in whatever we ask, we also know that we have the requests that we have asked from Him.

(16) If anyone sees his brother or sister committing a sin not leading to death, that person shall pray to God for that brother or sister. God will give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should make requests for this. (17) All unrighteousness is sin, and yet there is a sin that does not lead to death. (18) We know that no one who is born of God sins. The person who was born of God is kept by God and the evil one does not touch him. (19) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (20) We also know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding. Jesus Christ has done this so that we might know Him who is true and we are in God who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (21) Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

End of the paraphrase of the 1st Epistle of John