



for April 19 sermon

I John 2:3-14

GUIDELINE SPOTLIGHT

SHARING Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. If someone is sharing and makes a point that really connects with you, resist telling a story that makes the same point.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. (vv. 3-6) John uses the word “know” multiple times, but he links it to specific actions. According to these verses, what is the primary evidence that we actually know God? What does John say about the person who claims to know Him but ignores His commands? **Help the group see the gravity of verse 4. John places a firm expectation. To know God is to be transformed by His character. If there is no change in our walk, we haven’t truly met the Person we claim to follow.**
2. (vv. 7-11) John speaks about a commandment that is both “old” and “new.” What is this commandment (see v. 10)? How can a commandment be “old” (from the beginning) yet “new” in the way Jesus lived it out? **The “old” commandment is the OT call to love your neighbor. It is “new” because Jesus provided a new standard (loving as He loved) and a new power (the Holy Spirit).** Why is it impossible to ‘walk in the light’ while hating a brother or sister?
3. (vv. 12-14) John addresses three groups: children, fathers, and young men. Look at the specific descriptions for each group. What are the unique characteristics or “victories” mentioned for each? **Notice the repetition. Children are marked by forgiveness and**

knowing the Father. Fathers are marked by depth (knowing Him who is from the beginning). Young men are marked by strength and victory over the evil one.

4. Regardless of our age, which of these descriptions resonates most with where you are in your faith journey right now? Explain.

5. (v. 6) Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did. If a stranger watched you this past week (your conversations, your spending, your private thoughts), would they conclude that you know Jesus? What is one specific “command” (maybe regarding a relationship or a habit) that you’ve been treating as optional rather than an essential part of knowing Him? ***This is the hard turn toward personal accountability. To “know Him” is to “walk as He walked.” Go first by sharing a moment this week where you had to choose between the “pride of life” (being right or looking good) and “walking as Jesus did” (humility or sacrifice).***