



for May 3 sermon

# I John 2:28-3:10

## GUIDELINE SPOTLIGHT - CONFIDENTIALITY

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. What is said in the group stays in the group

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 John 3:1-2 Look closely at verse 1. What is the specific kind of love the Father has given us? How does the world react to this new identity, and why is that? ***If the world cannot recognize him, there is no way they can recognize his children. We are here to find our identity in the Father, not the world's approval.***
- 1 John 3:4-5, 8 John gives two distinct reasons why Jesus “ was revealed” (came to earth). What are they? How does knowing these two purposes help us understand why “practicing sin” (willingly living in sin) is a contradiction for someone who knows Him? ***Verse 5 says He came to take away our sins. Verse 8 says He came to destroy the devil's work. If we intentionally stay in sin, we are holding onto the very things Jesus died to destroy.***
- 1 John 3:7-9 This sounds very intense. How do we reconcile these verses with 1 John 2:1 (“if anybody does sin, we have an advocate”) and 1 John 1:8 (“if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves”)? ***Let them work through this some without your guidance at first. If things get off base, help the group see that “keep on sinning” or “practice sinning” refers to a lifestyle of unrepentant, comfortable rebellion. A child of God has a new “DNA” (God's seed, v. 9). We still stumble (2:1), but we no longer “practice” the stumble. We are now opposed to the sin that used to be our natural environment.***

- 1 John 3:2-3. John says that when Jesus appears, “we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” How does the future hope of seeing Jesus actually change the way we live today (v. 3)? ***Knowing we will one day be fully like Him gives us the motivation to start living like Him now. It’s like a marathon runner who picks up the pace because they can finally see the finish line.***
- 1 John 3:10 If “doing right” and “loving your brother” are the family traits of God’s children, which one has felt more difficult for you lately? Who is a “brother or sister” you’re having a hard time loving right now? How does remembering your own status as a “greatly loved child” (v. 1) give you the power to love them? ***After the group shares who they are struggling to love, explain that we aren’t just “venting”—we are practicing the family traits of God.***
  - ***Accountability: Explicitly state: “Next week, we are going to circle back to these names to see how we’ve intentionally loved them in the light of the Gospel.”***
  - ***Plan: If you are in a large group, the leader/apprentice should take note of the names shared. If in pairs, have them text each other the name of the person they mentioned right now. Encourage them to check in mid-week with a simple: “How are you doing with [Name] today?”***

## PRAYER

- Read verse 1. Pray that this identity would sink deeper than any worldly label.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to sharpen your vision of Jesus and to give you the conviction and strength to turn from the darkness to the light of Jesus.
- Pray for the specific person in your life who is hard to love. Ask the Spirit to help you see them through the lens of verse 1?