



JOURNEY GROUPS

AUGUST 30 LEADER

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- We will have our Journey Group Kick-Off event on September 1st from 5-8 pm, at the church, so mark your calendars and notify old members. As you learn about new people joining your group, please share details about the Kick-Off Night, with fun, food trucks, and encouragement for the year.
- If you still haven't emailed Pastor Ryan at ryanb@journeykingman.com with your group's updated information for the Fall, please do so soon so the Journey Group catalog is accurate and we have that information at the church as groups begin meeting the week of September 6th.
- Be in bold prayer for your group this upcoming season. Pray for God to prepare group members' hearts. Pray for each person by name. Pray for spiritual transformation, not just good conversations. Pray for authentic community. Pray for wisdom and dependence as a leader upon the Holy Spirit. Pray for unity and protection from the enemies of the soul. Pray for the group's mission to be a light and shine for Jesus (2 Cor 4:5-6).

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- If you could have any celebrity as your teacher for a day, whom would it be?
- What is one app on your phone you use way too much?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into 1 John 5:13–21:

1. Let's do a walking-tour review of the letter of 1 John and hit some highlights.
 - a. Have someone read 1 John 1:5–2:4.
 - b. Have someone read 1 John 2:9–11.
 - c. Have someone read 1 John 2:15–17.
 - d. Have someone read 1 John 3:1, 11, 16–18.
 - e. Have someone read 1 John 4:7–11.
 - f. Finally, have someone read 1 John 5:5, 10–12.
2. As you listened and read those verses, what themes stuck out to you?
(Answers will vary, but here are some that should emerge: assurance, knowing God, obedience, love of God, love for God, love for others, prayer, resisting the world, and remaining centered on Jesus.)
3. From the sermon on Sunday, in what ways is our world and culture different from John's original audience who received this letter? And in what ways are we similar? (We have different technology, political systems, cultural institutions, and social pressures. But the fundamental spiritual realities are the same. Like John, we live in a world where: 1) there are competing claims about who Jesus is, 2) people are tempted to redefine truth according to culture, 3) Christians can experience pressure to compromise their beliefs, 4) the world offers alternative sources of identity, security, satisfaction, and meaning, 5) Sin continues to distort our relationship with God and one another, and 6) Christians need encouragement and assurance that their faith is genuine.)
4. Have someone read 1 John 5:13–21.
5. What is the definition of assurance? (Assurance is a settled confidence that what God has promised concerning our salvation is true and that, through faith in Jesus Christ, we truly belong to God. Assurance is not merely feeling saved. It is confidence grounded in God's promises and the evidence of God's work in our lives.)

6. How does John seek to assure us in his letter? (John points us toward Jesus and the evidence that our lives are being transformed by our relationship with Him. He has given us several ways to recognize the reality of genuine faith: 1) We believe the truth about Jesus – that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and our Savior. 2) We obey God's commands. 3) We love God's people. 4) We reject the values of the world. 5) We persevere in the truth. 6) We experience the work of the Holy Spirit. 7) We possess life through the Son because ultimately, our assurance rests in Jesus Christ.)
7. **Reread verse 13.** From the sermon, what does it mean to believe in the name of the Son of God? (To believe in Jesus' name means much more than agreeing that certain facts about Jesus are true; it involves trusting Jesus Himself.)
8. **Read verses 14-15.** Why is prayer important in our relationship with God?
9. Why can we approach God with confidence? (Prayer is important because prayer is part of our relationship with God. It is how we communicate with Him, depend upon Him, confess our needs, seek His wisdom, express our worship, and participate in His purposes. We can approach God with confidence because our confidence isn't based on our goodness or ability to persuade God. It is based on our relationship with Jesus and God's character.)
10. How can prayer help us become 'your will be done' kind of people? (Prayer gradually moves our hearts from "God, do what I want" toward "God, make me want what You want." As we pray, we surrender our desires to God, acknowledge His authority, listen to His Word, confess where our desires are wrong, ask for wisdom, learn dependence, and trust Him when His answer isn't what we expected. Prayer doesn't primarily change God into someone who agrees with us. Prayer changes us into people who increasingly trust and desire God's will.)
11. **Read verses 16-17.** What should be our first reaction when we hear of a brother or sister struggling with a sin? What should be our last reaction? (Our first reaction should be love and prayer. Our last reaction, or what we should never do, is gossip, slander, give condemnation, or distance ourselves from them.)

12. **Read verses 18-21.** What do we learn about the enemy in these verses? (John tells us that the evil one is real and active. He recognizes a genuine spiritual conflict. Satan exercises influence over the fallen world and seeks to draw people away from God and toward deception and sin. The enemy is powerful, but he is not sovereign.)
13. John lays it out very plainly: 'the whole world is under the control of the devil,' but we are set apart. We are God's children. How can we not lose sight that this world is hostile territory? How can we stay in the world, but not be of the world? (We need to maintain a clear distinction between where we live and where our ultimate allegiance lies. Jesus didn't call us to escape the world. He called us to live faithfully within it. We stay in the world without being of the world. We don't withdraw from the world; we engage the world without allowing the world to disciple us.)
14. **Reread verse 20.** How does this verse sum up the entire letter? (Jesus is the center of everything.)
15. On Sunday, Matt talked about being stuck in a dark cave. How does this verse bring light to those stuck in confusing and chaotic darkness? (Life feels confusing because we can't see what God is doing, where He is leading, why things happened, or what we should do next. But God promises that He has given us Jesus who brings light into the darkness.)
16. Why is Verse 21 such a great end to this letter? (An idol is anything that takes the place of Jesus.) What idols do you have to be on guard against? (Answers will vary.)

PRAYER

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