



JOURNEY GROUPS

JULY 26 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

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

- Saturday, August 1st, will be a training day for established Journey Group leaders. We will use this time to refresh and equip ourselves for the work that we do as leaders in community. The topics will include the connection between ministry and prayer, the Journey Group's vision in community, and an understanding of spiritual development. We will begin at 9:30 am and conclude after lunch (provided). You should have received a text message to RSVP for this event. Please respond to this short survey, even if you do not plan to attend or are unsure at this time. This will help Pastor Ryan to plan.
- It's time to gather information on who is continuing in your group, if you are open to new members, and when and where you plan to meet during this next season of Journey Groups, which begins September 6th. Next month, Journey Group sign-ups begin again on August 9th. Please notify Pastor Ryan with this information before August 6th.

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What's something you can do today with complete confidence because you've done it so many times before?
- Who has been one of the most trustworthy people in your life, and what made them trustworthy?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into 1 John 3:19–24:

1. Christians can sometimes struggle with anxiety or insecurity in regard to their salvation. In **1 John 5:13**, John writes, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may KNOW you have eternal life." As we finish chapter 3, our goal is to receive the blessing of assurance.
2. Have someone read **1 John 3:19-24**. Now, reread **verse 19**. What two things is John about to teach us? (John is about to teach us: 1) How we can know that we belong to the truth—that we have genuine assurance of salvation. 2) How our hearts can be at rest before God—experiencing confidence instead of fear or condemnation in His presence. Assurance of belonging to Christ leads to confidence before God.)
3. New Testament scholar Leon Morris said, "Believers should live before God not in trembling anxiety, but in calm confidence." Why does God want our hearts to be at peace in his presence? (God desires His children to enjoy fellowship with Him rather than live in constant fear. Christ has removed our condemnation [**Romans 8:1**], reconciled us to the Father, and adopted us as His children. Peace allows us to worship joyfully, pray boldly, obey willingly, and love others freely.)
4. Read **verse 20** again. How do guilt and an overactive conscience keep us from experiencing the assurance that God wants for us? (An overactive conscience can cause us to focus more on our failures than on Christ's finished work. We begin measuring God's acceptance by our performance instead of by Christ's righteousness. While the Holy Spirit lovingly convicts us of sin, Satan often seeks to accuse and discourage us. John reminds us that God's verdict is greater than our self-condemnation.)
5. Why do we sometimes struggle to forgive ourselves, even though Jesus forgave us long ago? (Sometimes our pride makes it difficult to accept grace—we believe we should somehow make up for our failures. Other times shame or painful memories linger. Yet refusing to accept God's forgiveness places greater confidence in our feelings than in God's promises.)

6. **Read verses 21-22.** How does obedience and living to do the will of God impact our prayer life? (Obedience deepens our fellowship with God and aligns our hearts with His desires. As we delight in pleasing Him, our prayers increasingly reflect His purposes rather than merely our own wishes. Obedience does not earn answered prayer; rather, it positions us to pray with greater confidence because we are seeking what pleases Him.)
7. How should we respond when God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we would expect, especially when we think what we are asking for is in His will? (We continue trusting God's wisdom, goodness, and timing. God always answers according to His perfect knowledge and eternal purposes. Sometimes His answer is "yes," sometimes "no," and sometimes "wait." Like Jesus in Gethsemane, we can pray honestly while ultimately submitting ourselves to the Father's will, knowing that His plans are better than ours.)
8. **Read verses 23-24.** Do you remember from the sermon on Sunday? What is so significant about 'believing in the name of Jesus?' (John is calling us to put all of our faith in who Jesus is and all that he says and does. To believe in Jesus' name is to trust His entire person and work. It means believing that He is the eternal Son of God, the promised Messiah, the only Savior, whose perfect life, substitutionary death, and victorious resurrection fully accomplish our salvation. Biblical faith is not merely agreeing with facts about Jesus but entrusting ourselves completely to Him.)
9. From **verse 24**, what is the blessing that comes with keeping these commands? (John says that those who keep God's commands abide in Him, and He in them. As believers walk in faith and obedience, they enjoy a deeper experience of fellowship with God. This abiding relationship is evidenced by the indwelling Holy Spirit, who continually assures, strengthens, convicts, and transforms God's people.)
10. **Read John 14:23.** What does it mean when Jesus says that "we will come to them and make our home with them"? (Jesus is describing the intimate fellowship believers enjoy with the Triune God. Through the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son dwell with every believer. This is not simply God's omnipresence but His covenant presence—a personal, ongoing relationship marked by communion, guidance, comfort, and love.)

11. How can we experience this kind of closeness in real relationship with God? (We experience closeness with God by abiding in Christ through regular prayer, meditation on Scripture, confession of sin, obedience, worship, fellowship with God's people, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. We do not earn God's presence; rather, we cultivate an awareness and enjoyment of the relationship He has already established through Christ.)
12. Here is the list that Matt gave on Sunday of how we can know we belong to the truth and have our hearts at rest in his presence:
- Trust the truth of the gospel – Why is what Jesus did on the cross the foundation of our peace? (Because Jesus completely satisfied God's justice on our behalf. Our peace rests not on our ability to be good enough, but on Christ's finished work.)
 - Believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ – What in your life do you need to trust Jesus with and hand over to Him? (Answers will vary, but trusting Christ means surrendering these areas to His sovereign care.)
 - Walk in obedience – How is obedience an act of worship, and how does that drive a close relationship with God? (Obedience is an expression of love and gratitude toward God. Like any healthy relationship, love is demonstrated through faithful actions. Obedience deepens our fellowship with God as we increasingly delight in what delights Him.)
 - Love your brothers and sisters in Christ – Why is love for your brothers and sisters in Christ a proof that you are in Christ? (Because genuine Christian love is produced by the Holy Spirit. As God changes our hearts, we begin to love fellow believers with Christlike humility, patience, forgiveness, and sacrificial care.)
13. What in your life might keep you from having your heart at rest in His presence? (Answers will vary.)

PRAYER

-
-
-
-