



JOURNEY GROUPS

JUNE 14 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

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

- Please fill out the survey that Pastor Ryan provided via text if you haven't already, so we can gather information to plan for the future.
- Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 1st, as a training day for established Journey Group leaders. We will use this time as a refresher and an equipping time for the work that we do as leaders in community.
- Some groups are continuing to meet through the summer. It is not expected that all groups do so. Having a rhythm of rest is important and honors the Lord, as He can do more with you as you trust Him through rest. Whatever you choose to do, know that He sees your heart and is offering you rest for your souls.
- As we are a couple of weeks into our summer season and some rhythms are changing, be in prayer for the ministry opportunities our church has for children and youth: HUME Lake Youth Camps (June 14–20).

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What is the strangest food you have ever tried?
- If you could instantly become an expert at one skill, what would it be?
- If you had to describe your spiritual journey using one word, what would it be and why?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into 1 John 2:12-14:

1. Have someone read 1 John 1:5-7. This is the key verse for the first half of John's letter.
2. Have someone, or maybe a couple of people, read 1 John 1:5 through 1 John 2:14. As the scripture is read, be on the lookout for the different times when John is calling out gaps between what we claim or say and how we actually live. Once the scripture is read, make a group list of all the gaps John targets.
3. Why is it important to keep evaluating ourselves to see if we are self-deceived or to see if there are areas we are walking in darkness? (We need to evaluate to reflect often because we drift so easily and are so easily deceived. We read the Word of God, but will quickly go away from it and forget what we spiritually look like (Jas 1:22-25).)
4. On Sunday, Matt gave a couple of examples of darkness that we need to be on the lookout for: 1) treating sin lightly is darkness, 2) confessing but not repenting can be a form of darkness, 3) claiming that Jesus is Lord but knowingly ignoring or violating commands from Scripture, 4) not loving our neighbors, harboring hatred, judgment, or resentment towards them, gossiping about them - these are all types of darkness.
5. Can we think of any other potential darkness that could trip us up as we strive to walk in the light? (Answers will vary.)
6. Is there a form of darkness we listed that you personally struggle with? How can you renounce that and walk in the light? (Renouncing that "darkness" will mean declaring what we intend to repent of and making that known to a trusted someone who can help us be accountable to genuinely walk away from it.)
7. Have someone read 1 John 2:12-14. John gives us quick encouragement, and we also see a progression of spiritual growth accompanied by some amazing blessings.
8. What do 'little children' or new believers have as their key blessings? (They experience the reality and the realization that their sins are forgiven. They alone is a relief that they are justified and welcomed by God.)

9. What key victories do the young men in the faith have? (They have the strength through the Spirit of God to overcome the devil and not succumb to the lies that he instills in our world.)
10. What does John say about the mature? (John says that the “mature” or the elders are receiving grace from God in that they have a deep experiential knowledge of God – they “know” and have walked with God in a way that gives them confidence because experience is the best teacher. And they can and should impart that confidence to those around them.)
11. What is the key that we talked about on Sunday that helps grow us from little children into 'young men' of the faith? (Knowing, loving, and living the word of God.)
12. How does God's Word contribute to spiritual strength according to **verse 14**? (God's Word abiding in believers nourishes faith, strengthens obedience, equips them for spiritual warfare, and enables victory over temptation (cf. **Psalm 119:11**).)
13. What do you see when you look at your Bible? If you look at your Bible and see the word of God, how do you approach it? Do you prioritize reading it? (Answers will vary.)
14. What do you need to do to leave the darkness behind, walk in the light, and, specifically, is there anything God is calling you to do to kickstart your growth or to make your relationship with Him a priority? (Answers will vary.)
15. Let's look a little deeper at the text. What reasons does John give for writing to his readers in **verses 12–14**? Why do you think he wants to write? (John writes because their sins have been forgiven through Christ, they know the Father, they know Him who is from the beginning, they have overcome the evil one, and they are spiritually strong with God's Word abiding in them. He is genuinely concerned for each person's spiritual growth in Christ.)
16. According to **verse 12**, on what basis are believers forgiven? (Believers are forgiven "for His name's sake," meaning forgiveness is based on the person and work of Jesus Christ, not human merit.)

17. Why might John address "children," "fathers," and "young men" separately? (John recognizes differing levels of spiritual maturity within the church while affirming the value and importance of each group.)
18. Where do you think you are in your spiritual development as it relates to these verses? (Answers will vary.)
19. How can spiritually mature believers ("fathers") benefit the church community? (They provide wisdom, stability, mentoring, and testimony of God's faithfulness gained through years of walking with Him.)
20. How can spiritually strong believers ("young men") contribute to the church? (They can serve energetically, engage in ministry, resist spiritual opposition, and encourage others in spiritual battles.)
21. How does knowing God influence decisions made at work, school, or home? (Our relationship with God should shape our values, priorities, ethics, and responses to challenges in every sphere of life.)
22. How does spiritual identity impact emotional and mental well-being? (Remembering one's forgiveness, adoption, and victory in Christ provides security, hope, peace, and resilience during trials.)
23. What evidence in your life suggests that God's Word is abiding in you? (Answers will vary, but increasing obedience, application of the Scriptures to one's life, transformed thinking, resistance to temptation, and Christlike character are all indicating that God's Word is shaping our lives by the work of the Holy Spirit.)
24. In what ways have you experienced victory over the evil one recently? (Answers will vary, but examples may include overcoming specific temptations, persevering through trials, rejecting lies, or growing in faithfulness.)

PRAYER

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