



JOURNEY GROUPS

JUNE 28 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 the community. The topics will include authentic ministry and the practice of community, among other practical helps. Stay tuned for more details.
- I hope your summer is a time for revitalization. What are some ways that God wants you to heal or facilitate healing in others? Commit those to prayer and include others in that prayer support.
- Keep the kids and their households who attended Kids Camp at Journey and Youth Camp in California this week. Many decisions for Christ were made, but now is the time when efforts are being made to choke out those choices for Jesus. Please be praying for God to sustain momentum and for leaders to check in and foster spiritual growth.

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- What is one trait, habit, expression, or talent that clearly runs in your family? Is there something people immediately recognize as "that's definitely a _____ thing."
- What's one family tradition you hope never disappears? It could be a holiday tradition, a meal, a vacation, a saying, or something unique to your family.

STUDY

Digging Deeper into 1 John 2:18–27:

1. A keyword this week was family. Why is family a blessing from God? (Family is one of God's good gifts. It provides love, belonging, protection, encouragement, and a place where we learn relationships, responsibility, and faith. Biological families are designed to nurture us, while the church is God's spiritual family, where believers encourage one another to grow in Christ. Healthy families reflect God's love, faithfulness, and care.)
2. Why are certain factors that come into play that make having a healthy family a challenge? (Because we live in a fallen world, every family is affected by sin. Challenges include poor communication, unforgiveness, pride, unrealistic expectations, conflict, busyness, outside pressures, and spiritual opposition. Healthy families require humility, forgiveness, grace, intentional love, and dependence on God.)
3. Matt had the church read the first 4 verses of 1 John as a warm-up last Sunday. Let's go back to the beginning. Would someone be willing to **read 1 John 1:1-4**?
4. We learned the Greek word for fellowship on Sunday – koinonia. Does anybody remember the definition? (Koinonia means sharing in common, participation, partnership, or close fellowship. It is much deeper than simply spending time together. Biblical fellowship is sharing a common life in Christ, united by the gospel and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It involves loving, serving, encouraging, praying for, and bearing one another's burdens as members of God's family.)
5. The church is the family of God, and we are blessed with the opportunity to share in koinonia with one another. How can we love each other well, since we are brothers and sisters in Christ? (Speaking the truth in love, encouraging one another in our walk with Christ, praying for one another regularly, bearing each other's burdens, showing hospitality, forgiving quickly and seeking reconciliation, serving one another with humility, being patient with each other's weaknesses, holding one another accountable with grace, and gathering consistently for worship, study, and fellowship.)

6. Have someone read our main passage for today. **1 John 2:18-27.**
7. We are going to break this up into some smaller pieces. Let's **reread verse 18 again.** What does it mean when the Bible says we are living in the last days or last hours? (We are in the final age before Jesus comes back)
8. What was the early church's belief about the antichrist? (He is a person who will head up the final world rebellion against Jesus)
9. Have someone **read 1 John 2:19-23.** What happened to the churches that John was ministering to? (John's churches were experiencing a painful division caused by false teachers. Some individuals who had once been part of the church had left the fellowship because they rejected the truth about Jesus Christ.)
10. According to John, what is the defining feature of these little antichrists that are causing all this trouble? (Denying the Father and Son; denying that Jesus was God in the flesh, etc.)
11. **Read verses 24-27.** The only anointing we need. John calls us to MENOS, which means to remain; “remain” in this anointing. How might we do that? (They must let the apostolic message—the gospel they heard from the beginning—remain in them. Remaining in God's truth results in abiding in Christ and receiving eternal life.)
12. How can we avoid being led astray by people who claim they heard from God and received a new revelation? (John's answer is not to chase every new teaching but to remain in the truth we have already received about Christ (1 John 2:24). We avoid deception by measuring every claim against God's revealed Word rather than accepting it based on a person's charisma, popularity, or claimed spiritual experiences.)
13. Have someone **read Galatians 1:6-9.** What are some modern counterfeit religions out there that have led people astray? (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [Mormonism], Jehovah's Witnesses, the prosperity gospel, New Age spirituality, and Christian Science. Any movement that teaches salvation can be earned through human effort, religious rituals, secret knowledge, or personal merit rather than through Christ's finished work.)

14. According to **verses 18–19**, what evidence does John give that someone was never truly part of God's people? (John says they "went out from us," demonstrating they were never truly of the believing community. Genuine faith perseveres because it is sustained by God.)
15. According to **verses 20–21**, what has every believer received that enables them to know the truth? (Believers have received an "anointing from the Holy One," referring primarily to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who enables believers to understand and embrace God's truth.)
16. What habits could help you remain firmly grounded in the truth rather than being influenced by false teaching? (Daily Bible reading, prayer, scripture memorization, studying sound doctrine, fellowship with mature believers, and evaluating every teaching by Scripture)
17. Why is it important for a church to recognize that not everyone who attends is necessarily a genuine believer? (It encourages discernment without creating unnecessary suspicion. Churches should lovingly proclaim the gospel while recognizing that true faith is demonstrated over time. And that means that we are witnesses to each other of authentic faith in Jesus.)
18. According to this passage, what role does sound doctrine play in preserving church unity? (True unity is built upon shared truth, not mere agreement or friendship. Remaining in the apostolic [derived from Jesus' teachings] gospel protects genuine fellowship.)
19. How should mature believers help newer Christians recognize false teaching? (Through patient discipleship, modeling biblical discernment, answering questions, teaching Scripture, and encouraging dependence upon the Holy Spirit rather than fear.)

PRAYER

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