

1 John 5:1-13

Got Jesus?

Scripture: 1 John 5:1-13

Memory Verse: 1 John 5:12 "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

Lesson Focus: As our memory verse so plainly states, you either got Jesus or you don't! We will wrap up our study of 1 John with a strong appeal to the kids to trust in Jesus.

Activities and Crafts: Love One Another Coloring Page, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd - 5th.
Activity for 1st and 2nd Graders: Little Dots of Love

Starter Activity: 1 John Review Quiz

With this being our last lesson in 1 John consider kicking it off with a review quiz that will take them on a tour of some of the important truths learned the past couple of months. Consider breaking the group up into teams for some friendly competition. * See below a collection of some of the more famous verses that we took the kids through and see if they can correctly fill in the blanks! As you go through each one consider reviewing what the verses mean as well! (**1st/2nd Grade Teachers:** We will provide you with a handout with images of each answer. Considering passing this out to the class and using it to play!) *

- 1) **1 John 1:4:** These things we write to you that your _____ may be full. (**joy**)
- 2) **1 John 1:5:** This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no _____ at all. (**darkness**)
- 3) **1 John 1:9:** If we confess our _____, He is faithful and just to forgive us our _____ and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (**sin**)
- 4) **1 John 2:4:** He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a _____ and the truth is not in him. (**liar**)
- 5) **1 John 2:15:** Do not love the _____ or the things in the _____. If anyone loves the _____, the love of the Father is not in him. (**world**)
- 6) **1 John 2:25:** This is the promise that He has promised us ---- eternal _____. (**life**)
- 7) **1 John 3:1a:** Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called _____ of God. (**children**)
- 8) **1 John 3:13:** Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world _____ you. (**hates**)
- 9) **1 John 3:18:** My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in _____. (**truth**)
- 10) **1 John 4:11:** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to _____ one another. (**love**)

In this last chapter, John is going to revisit several of these points in addition to making one last appeal to believers to truly encourage and strengthen them. Let's open our Bibles and take a look!

Bible Study:

1 John 5:1: This echoes some of what we just reviewed: That we can be called children of God (**1 John 3:1**) by simple faith and trust in Jesus. * But also, that true children of God make it their aim to love their brothers and sisters in Christ (**1 John 4:11**)! *

John has been very clear that there is no room for hate among the family of God! Let's go back a couple of verses and see how John makes this point even clearer!

1 John 4:20-21: A child of God CANNOT truly love God while at the same time hate one of His kids! Look at the kids sitting around you in church. Most of them are believers in Jesus just like you. And that means most of them are God's kids just like you. Do you see how crazy it is to say you love God, but then have hate in your heart to someone that God loves?

1 John 5:2: You may have noticed that throughout this letter John has been repeating the same lessons. Believers are to love God, keep His commandments, love each other, etc. Q: Why do you think John repeats these so many times? A: Because not only are they important, but people are so quick to forget! This is true not just in spiritual things but in so much of life. Think about how many times your parents might have to tell you to wash your hands, brush your teeth, clean your room, etc. *

Let's be clear that this isn't a sentimental, romantic Disney princess love that John is talking about. This is the REAL "agape" love we talked about last week that freely gives of oneself to the other, just like Jesus did for you when He gave His life for you.

Q: How many of you are going to be at VBS this week? Here's a challenge: LOVE the kids in your VBS group! * Many of the kids in your group might not know about Jesus, but if they experience REAL "agape" love, they will be more likely to come back and follow Jesus too!

1 John 5:3: Some people might think that keeping God's commandments is "burdensome". Q: What does it mean for something to be a burden? (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a backpack with some heavy stuff in it and invite a volunteer up to carry it around) If we think obeying God is like this, then we are missing it! *

Read Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus is inviting us not into just rules, but relationship! And in relationship, we find rest for our souls knowing that following His rules is best for us! *

1 John 5:4-5: This echoes what we learned a few weeks ago about how believers in Jesus are to be "in the world", but "not of the world" (**1 John 2:15-17**).

Q: What is an echo? A: A repetition of a sound. (**Teachers:** Consider inviting a few volunteers up to play an "echo game" where they each echo something you say a little quieter than the kid before them) *

Again, John is repeating an important lesson, but this time with more of a punch! Believers of Jesus are not only "not of this world", but they are "overcomers" of the world! Through faith/trust in Jesus, they will have victory over all that the enemy throws at them! *

1 John 5:6-8: This faith/trust that believers have in Jesus is not a blind faith in a fantasy, but it rests on solid evidence and the sure and certain testimony of witnesses.

Q: What is a witness? A: In court it refers to someone who saw or heard what happened as they give their testimony under oath.

John was there to see that Jesus was both totally God and totally man. * At His baptism (the water), through His life and miracles (the Spirit), and at His crucifixion (the blood), Jesus was revealed to be the promised Rescuer. These are historical and public events that people saw. God made the truth of who Jesus is and what He came to do available to all. *

1 John 5:9: At Jesus's baptism the Bible says that there was suddenly a voice from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (**Matthew 3:17**) God is ultimately the One behind all these witnesses for it was God's plan to send Jesus to be the Rescuer, the fulfillment of what He had promised from ancient times!

1 John 5:10: To think otherwise and to doubt God's testimony is to call Him a liar!

Q: Do you think it is a good idea to tell God He is a liar? *

1 John 5:11: And this is the reason for God's testimony: That sinners like you and me, who deserve punishment and hell, might instead receive what we don't deserve, eternal joy and life! This is only received through faith and trust in Jesus.

1 John 5:12: Without Jesus, there is no life, but only getting what is deserved for your sin: punishment and hell. This reminds me of the famous "Got Milk?" ads from many years ago that featured pictures of people with a "milk moustache". They were designed to encourage people to buy and drink more milk. * In the same way, John is asking us instead, "Got Jesus?" * For it will be hell without Him! (**Teachers:** See the printoffs we left in your room and consider showing these to the kids) *

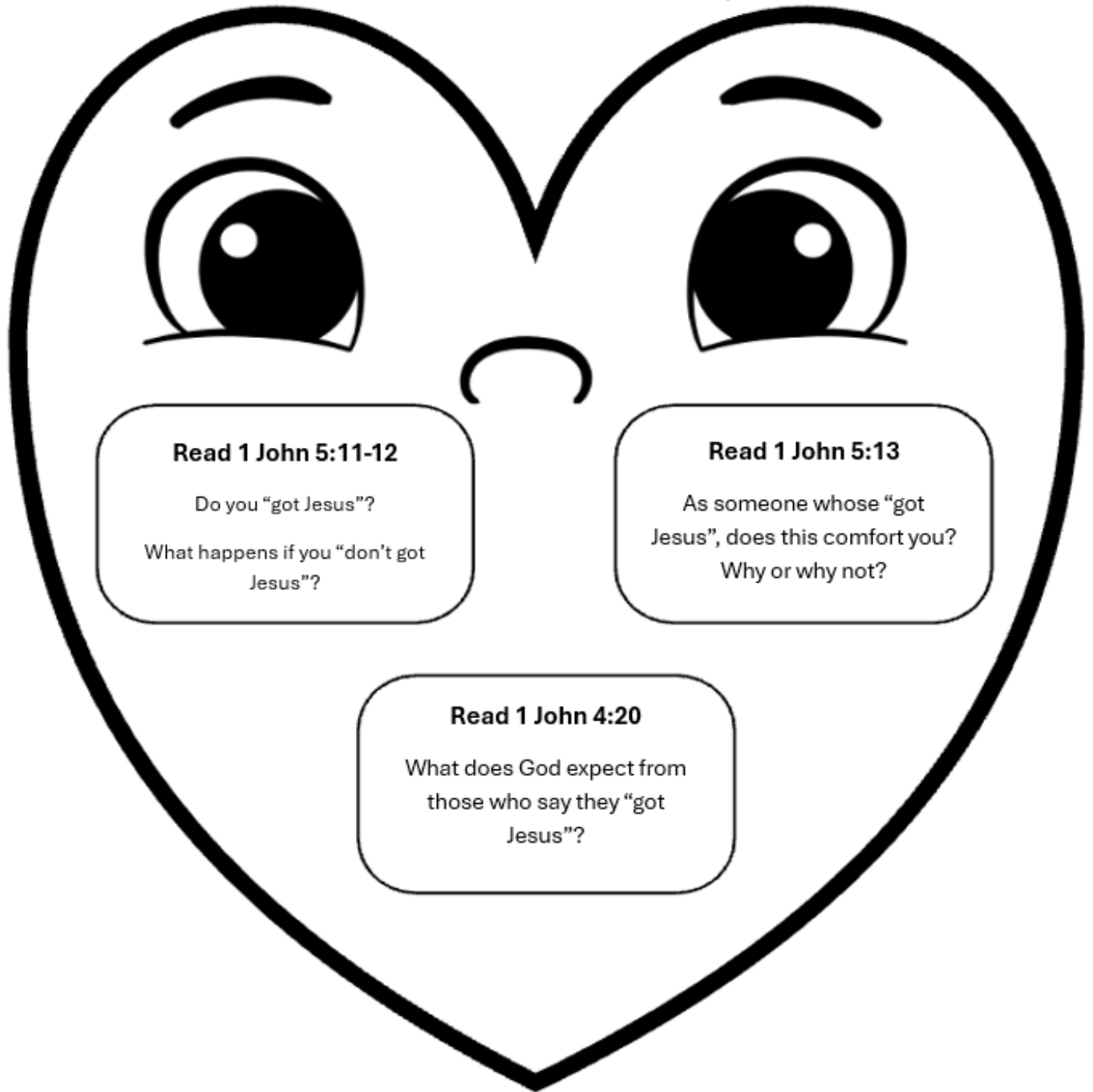
Boys and Girls: If you have not trusted in Jesus, if you are not following Him or loving Him, then you probably don't "got Jesus" either: That is a dangerous to be! Let me appeal to you to trust in Jesus today. He loves you! Trust in Him, love Him, and walk in His ways as John has instructed us throughout this letter.

1 John 5:13: If you are a believer and follower of Jesus, then let these encouraging words soak into your soul as we wrap up our study of this letter. If you "Got Jesus", then you can know, that you know, that you know that you also "Got Heaven"! *

Key Point: At the beginning of this letter, John said he wrote it so that believers' joy may be FULL (**1 John 1:4**). Fewer things give you more joy than having the assurance of eternal life. If you "Got Jesus", then you also "Got Joy", and are promised "fullness" of joy, an "it doesn't get any better than this" kind of joy! That is what eternal life with Jesus will be like! John has certainly challenged believers in his letter to not just say they "Got Jesus", but to live like they "Got Jesus". But let's joyfully follow Jesus never forgetting what John said back in **1 John 3:1**: "How great a love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God!"

BRING IT HOME

BEHOLD what manner of **LOVE** the Father has bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!