



MARS HILL CHURCH

1, 2 & 3 John:
walking in the light

mars hill sermon & study series



1 John: **walking in the light**

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mars hill sermon and study series

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an introduction to 1 John

After Jesus' resurrection from death and ascension back into Heaven, Christianity flourished despite widespread persecution. However, as the first century drew to a close and new generations of Christians began to fill the church, the greatest threat to the health and survival of Christianity became false teachers who were eroding truth from within the church. Subsequently, the halfhearted, waning zeal of young Christians, combined with the militant zealotry of false teachers, became such an urgent and serious matter that



John wrote a very loving and personal pastoral letter of instruction to a number of churches. Each was struggling with various false teachers and false doctrines that were confusing Christians and causing mean-spirited infighting within the churches.

While 1 John itself does not mention its author or intended recipients, we can assume that the author was John; the vocabulary and style of writing are very similar to John's gospel and the author claims to be an eyewitness to Jesus' life (1 John 1:1-3, 4:14). Additionally, the early church fathers Ignatius and Polycarp attributed the authorship of the book to John. And, since the book is intended for a broad audience of churches, we can assume that it likely included the seven churches that John also wrote to in Revelation 2-3. John's words to these seven churches include rebukes for: tolerating false teachers, a waning love for Jesus, sinful sexual conduct, welcoming of Satanic teaching through false prophets and prophetesses, little ministry fruit, and weariness from constant persecution.

John was likely also refuting the increasingly popular Gnostic teaching that was threatening to negate true biblical doctrine by blending it with error. Gnosticism was a combination of Greek philosophical dualism that separated reality into the categories of the material reality and the non-material, spiritual

reality. Gnosticism also stressed the Eastern mystic teachings about secret, hidden knowledge.

The dualism in Gnosticism encouraged a dislike for the material world in favor of the spiritual world by teaching that matter was innately evil. This led either to asceticism and the harsh treatment of the body or to licentiousness in everything from sex to alcohol and food. This was based on the wrong belief that if we sin in our physical bodies, it does not corrupt or affect our spirit, because they are unrelated. Additionally, this led to a confusion over Jesus, because the Gnostic pseudo-Christians were teaching that Jesus could not have been both sinless and present in a physical body, because matter is evil. Therefore, they denied that Jesus was both fully man and fully God in favor of accepting only one half of His nature at the expense of the other.

The Eastern mystical influence also caused much trouble among Christians because it falsely taught that we need greater revelation than God has given us in Jesus and the Scriptures. And this secret, or hidden, knowledge is available only to those self-appointed gurus who know the secret things of God, and they are therefore to be followed over Jesus and the Bible. These false teachers commonly taught that salvation does not come through faith in Jesus, but rather through the secret teachings of gurus. A brief scan of any local non-Christian bookstores' spirituality section or any episode of Oprah will provide ample modern-day examples of this trend—a trend which began with Satan's temptation of our first parents in Eden to pursue secret knowledge apart from God.



Regarding similar contemporary false teachers, I John does not welcome them as innovative, new theologians or progressive thinkers as many churches in our day sadly do. Rather, John combats the false teachers by identifying them with very harsh and terse language, calling them:

- (1) 2:18 - Antichrists
- (2) 2:22 - Liars/Antichrists
- (3) 2:26 - Deceivers
- (4) 3:7 - Deceivers
- (5) 4:1 - False Prophets
- (6) 4:3 - Antichrists

John's passion throughout the letter is motivated by his deep love for Jesus and Jesus' people the church. In the history of the world, it is possible that no one has known Jesus better or loved Him more than John, and for good reason.

John was the youngest of Jesus' Disciples who was privileged to be called by Jesus and appointed to be an Apostle (Matthew 4:18-25; Mark 3:13-19).

Additionally, John was among the inner circle of the three Disciples who were

closest to Jesus, and was therefore privy to some instruction and experience with Jesus that no one else was. John not only prepared the Last Supper (Luke 22:7-22), but he also sat in the seat of friendship next to Jesus and asked the Lord who would betray Him (John 13:23-26). Following the Last Supper John witnessed Jesus weep and sweat blood in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46), and followed Jesus to His trials (John 18:15-18). John stood at the foot of Jesus' cross and watched His suffering (John 19:16-27), and was appointed by Jesus to care for His mother



Mary (John 19:25-27). Three days after Jesus' death, John was the first person to enter His empty tomb (John 20:1-9), shortly thereafter was the first person to recognize Jesus after He rose from death (John 21:1-14), and later stood gazing into the sky as Jesus ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:1-11).

John carried on the ministry of Jesus with faithful and courageous devotion, leading the church through its early seasons of struggle, persecution, sin, and heresy. And, though every other Apostle had been murdered, John continued to lead the early church and train its next generation of pastors faithfully. An attempt was made to murder John by boiling him alive, but God spared his life. John was then exiled to the Island of Patmos where on a sad Sunday, sitting by himself contemplating his ministry and nursing his wounds, John was visited by Jesus who came down from Heaven in all of His glory to lovingly encourage His dear friend (Revelation 1:9-20). John eventually returned to Ephesus and continued his ministry. It is recorded in church history that when he was too old and feeble to preach or even stand, John had himself carried into the church; and, with a feeble voice he simply articulated the heart that Jesus had for all of His followers, saying, "Little children, love one another."

And this is simply the heart of I John. After all that John went through with and for his great God and dear friend Jesus, he was not going to allow false teachers to confuse the new Christians who called him pastor, because he loved them. Therefore, John wrote his letter to primarily younger and newer Christians as their pastor/grandpa who continually refers to them (and us) as "my dear children." Throughout his letter John clearly teaches that the four purposes of his writing are that we may have:

- (1) 1:4 - Joy
- (2) 2:1 - Holiness
- (3) 2:26 – Correct doctrine
- (4) 5:13 – Assurance of our salvation

Sadly, false teachers cause some Christians to lose the certainty of their salvation, clarity of their doctrine, commitment to holy living, and cause for joy. This leads to a life of sadness, sin, heresy, and uncertainty about whether God does love them. So, John lovingly and brilliantly centers his teaching on who Jesus is, what Jesus has done, and how Jesus transforms our lives.

To help you study the book for yourself, it will be good to begin by reading the book repeatedly and circling or highlighting the three words that John repeats as his themes:

- (1) know
- (2) love
- (3) fellowship

As you study what John means by these words you will discover that it is important that we know who Jesus is and what He has done for us, that we embrace Jesus' love for us, and share that love with others as we fellowship together as God's family made up of brothers and sisters in Jesus.

John writes his letter primarily to inform someone of how they can know that they are a Christian who has Jesus as their God (1 John 5:13). And, the entirety of his letter breaks down into three categories that are helpful in determining if you are a Christian. His categories simply demonstrate that someone cannot become a Christian without experiencing a transformation in how they think theologically, how they act morally, and how they relate socially.

Theological Transformation

Do you believe that Jesus is the eternal God who became a man?

Moral Transformation

Do you admit that you are a sinner and want to stop sinning and live like Jesus?

Social Transformation

Do you receive God's love and love Him and other Christians?

It will be very helpful for you to look for these three categories of life transformation caused by Jesus as you read the book. It will also be helpful for you to examine your own life in light of John's inspired words so that you may be certain of your salvation and life—a life of correct doctrine, holiness, and joy as God intends for you. It is imperative, however, that people realize that they are not saved by doing these things, but rather saved people naturally do them because God has changed their hearts. Therefore, as you read and study this great book of the Bible, it will be most helpful for you to first pray that God would help you examine the book accurately, and that God would use it to transform you to be more like Jesus. And that God the Holy Spirit, who is mentioned throughout the book as the source for new life in Jesus (2:20, 27; 3:24), will transform your life, which is the entire point of the book.

studying 2 Timothy alone, with your family, and with your community group bible study

We will be studying I John verse-by-verse together as a church. To help everyone in the church learn these great books I have compiled this booklet to provide opportunities for people to study the book by themselves, as a family, and in their community group in addition to the sermon. The children's classes

that meet during the church service will also be studying I John in an effort to steep everyone in the church in the same book of the Bible. In the final section of this booklet there are also some Kids' Bible Questions that you may want to intersperse with your teaching times for fun and variety.

For the parents, particularly the fathers of young children, it is important for you to sing, pray, read Scripture, and discuss God with your young children each day. It will be best to keep these times short (i.e. 10-15 minutes or so), because if they are too long and arduous your children will grow to resent them, which is a terrible thing to do to a child. In our home, each night before bed time we take time to read Bible stories, discuss Scripture, sing, pray together, cuddle, etc. This is often the highlight of my day and theirs. As a parent, you will be wise to also capture the teachable moments that emerge each day to cultivate your children's hearts toward loving obedience to Jesus. Lastly, if your children are

older, then they should be able to do the same Bible studies in this booklet that you are, and the community group questions will be appropriate for your dinner table conversations with them.





week 1

Scripture to Read

I John 1:1-4

Summary of the Texts

John begins his letter by establishing his credibility as a teacher. He reasons that, because he was a friend and Apostle of Jesus who was present for His entire ministry to hear Jesus' teaching, see Jesus' life and miracles, and touch Jesus' physical body, he is the most credible teacher about Jesus. His argument is very important because, in his day, there were no such things as cameras and video cameras—it was eyewitness testimony that would have been the most credible piece of evidence. John's summary of Jesus is that He was/is the Word of God (or how God the Father has spoken to us), the eternal God who at a point in time entered into human history as a man, who has made it possible for us to have friendship with God as Christians and each other as the church. John then gives the first of four reasons why he has written the letter: that God's people may have joy through their friendship with each other and with God the Father, which is all made possible through Jesus (1:4). In this section we learn the primacy of clinging to the eyewitness accounts of the Apostles that Jesus was/is both fully God and fully man, without being led astray by persuasive false teachers armed with their legion of books, web sites, radio programs, television shows, and the like.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 1:3b "...our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

Questions for Personal Study

- Why does John begin his letter by focusing on Jesus and establishing his credibility as a reliable witness?
- Why is eyewitness testimony about Jesus the most credible?
- What is fellowship? Why is fellowship only possible with God and each other through Jesus?
- How are you experiencing the fellowship with God and other Christians that John speaks of?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- John says that he heard Jesus, saw Jesus, and touched Jesus. Which particular experiences that John had would you most like to have had with Jesus?
- Why should we trust eyewitness testimony of Jesus' life over the critiques of people who lived long after He ascended back into Heaven?
- Why is having eyewitness testimony about Jesus helpful in witnessing to non-Christians?
- Why is fellowship only possible with God and each other through Jesus?
- How are you experiencing the fellowship with God and Christians that John speaks of? According to John, how is complete joy possible?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Briefly teach your children John's life story from the day he met Jesus until he died as a godly old pastor.

Tuesday: Inform your children of some of the things that John heard Jesus teach, or if they know about Jesus' teaching, ask them to tell you what they remember that Jesus taught.

Wednesday: Teach your children some of the things that John saw Jesus do, such as performing miracles and rising from death.

Thursday: Teach your children some of the occasions when John likely got to touch Jesus as they were friends and co-workers.

Friday: Explain to your children that Jesus has lived forever as God and that He became a man so that we could know who God was and love Him. Ask them if they were John what things they would have most liked to see Jesus do or hear Jesus teach.

Saturday: Explain to your children that sin separates us from God and each other and that Jesus died to forgive our sin and rose to take it away. Now, we can be friends with God and with other people. Make sure that they understand what Jesus has done for them, and spend some time thanking God for loving them and thanking God for Christian friends.

Sunday: Explain to your children that you are going to church to learn more about Jesus and to have fun with other Christians, so they need to pay attention to the teaching and be kind to other people.





week 2

Scripture to Read

I John 1:5-2:2

Summary of the Texts

John moves from his opening comments about Jesus as fully God and fully man to teaching about our sin problem. He first teaches that God is neither sinful, nor the cause of any human sin. He then teaches that if we love God, then we will hate sin and see a change in our lives as we learn to confess our sin and have victory over it. And, though our goal is to not sin, the fact remains that though we can and will grow in holiness we will never be without sin in this lifetime; therefore, we will continually need to repent of sin and seek forgiveness from Jesus who died for our sin in our place. Lastly, John gives us the second reason for writing this letter: that we would not sin (2:1). In this section we see that sin is the problem in our lives individually and collectively as the church, and that unless we know how to deal with sin we and our church will become sick and die.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Questions for Personal Study

- Why is it so vital that we understand what sin is and what to do about it?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the “atoning sacrifice” for our sins?
- What does it mean to confess our sins?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- How did becoming a Christian alter your view of your own sinfulness?
- How has repentance of sin and Jesus’ cleansing brought healing and new life to you?
- Why is it important that we know that Jesus not only forgives our sin but also cleanses us from the stain of our sin and the sins that have been committed against us?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God loves them like a Father/Daddy and that in the Bible He teaches them how to live a good and holy life. Then explain to them that when we disobey God the Bible calls that sin. Ask your children if there are any sins they have recently committed and teach them how to pray to God asking for forgiveness.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that Jesus was God and the only person who has never sinned. And, because of our sin we are supposed to die and go to Hell forever. But, Jesus died for our sins and went back into Heaven and will take us there when we die, if we love Him and hate sin. Then, make sure that they know that Jesus will forgive them for anything they do, and that they need to be quick to pray to Him for forgiveness when they sin.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that God is like a Father/Daddy and that Christians are like His children whom He loves. Ask your children what this means to them. Then, explain to them that when they pray to God it is like speaking to their daddy, and as long as they are respectful He loves to hear from them and answer their prayers. To illustrate this, spend some time in prayer together to God the Father.

Thursday: Teach your children that God is not sinful, never says or does any bad things, and doesn't want us to sin either. Explain to them that God sees everything they do, so there are no secrets with God, and then ask them if they have any hidden secret sins that they need to ask God for forgiveness of.

Friday: Teach your children that God loves people from all over the world and, because of that, we should never dislike someone because they are from a different culture, race, or country. Explain to them that God made all different kinds of people, that Jesus died for all kinds of people, and that in Heaven there will be people of all colors and races and nations. Spend some time in prayer for people you know who are of a different race or culture than your children, that they will love Jesus and be in Heaven.

Saturday: Teach your children that when we sin against God, He forgives us. And, when someone else sins against us we need to forgive them too. Ask them if anyone has sinned against them who they need to forgive, so they don't stay mad at them, and then pray for that person together and have your children speak with them and tell them that they forgive them.

Sunday: Make sure that you get into the habit of having your children name their sin, go to the person(s) that they sinned against and name their sin and ask for that person's forgiveness. When others (e.g. siblings) sin against your children, make sure that this process of confessing the sin and asking for the forgiveness that is then extended is continually practiced.



week 3

Scripture to Read

I John 2:3-11

Summary of the Texts

Not only are Christians supposed to hate sin, they are also supposed to love God (demonstrated in their obedience to His Word) and love fellow Christians. Here John basically restates Jesus' summary of the Old Testament in Matthew 22:34-40 where He taught that the commands of the Bible were intended to show us how to love God and other people. Conversely, anyone who claims to be a Christian but has hatred toward a fellow Christian is living in the evil of darkness, thereby ruining his life and his church. Indeed, these simple points of loving God by obeying Him and loving His people by forgiving them are the twin pillars of church life. Apparently the false teachers in that day, like our own day, were encouraging people to disobey parts of the Bible and not forgive fellow Christians in favor of hatred, which was killing the church. In this section God intends for us to learn that our theology is not just ideological, but also intensely practical, and to be lived in our daily lives by obeying God and loving people; otherwise, we may be orthodox with our beliefs and heretics with our behavior.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 2:9 "Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness."

Questions for Personal Study

- Is it possible to be a Christian and have a habitual life pattern of disobeying God? Who do you love? Why?
- Is there any Christian who you do not love and need to forgive or make amends with? How will you do that? If you do not, how may this darkness that has settled upon you negatively impact your Christian life?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- John learned from Jesus that love for God precedes and causes obedience to God (e.g. John 14:15,21-24). How does this differ from the teaching of other religions that if you obey god he will love you?
- Why does love for God naturally produce obedience to God?
- How have you experienced God simply putting a love for other Christians into your heart?
- Which Christian people do you love the most? Why?
- How can Christian love for one another be a means of non-Christians' better understanding the gospel? Is there any Christian(s) who you are not on loving terms with and need to forgive or make amends with? What is your plan to do so?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that God knows what is best for us and tells us in the Bible how to live our lives so they will be good. And, if we truly love God then we will do what He says. Ask them to explain to you if they love God, and if so, how they are trying to obey Him in their lives.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that Jesus was a sinless and perfect person because He was God, and that He is our best example of how to live. Ask them to explain to you things they know about Jesus' life that they want to imitate in their lives (e.g. a love for people, regular prayer life, reading of the Bible, etc.).

Wednesday: Explain to your children that as Christians we are not supposed to hate anybody but instead love people and forgive them, no matter what. Teach them that when we hate people it makes us mean and angry, which is not how we should live our lives. Ask them if there is anyone with whom they are angry, or anything that has recently made them angry that they need to talk to you about, and then pray for them.

Thursday: Ask your children why they don't like the dark, especially when trying to walk around in the dark. Then, explain that when we don't obey God and love people, the Bible says it's just like we're walking around in the darkness tripping over things and hurting ourselves. Explain to them that you leave a light on for them at night so they don't have to be stuck in the darkness, and that Jesus is a sort of light who lights up their lives and shows them what to do and where to go.

Friday: Spend some time in worship and prayer together with your children thanking God for things for which they are grateful.

Saturday: Spend some time asking your children some of the Bible questions from the appendix of this book.

Sunday: Ask your children what they learned at church and how things went with the other children, as well as answering any questions they may have from their lesson at church.



week 4

Scripture to Read

I John 2:12-17

Summary of the Texts

Writing to some of the various groupings of people in the church that include older and younger men and seasoned and newer Christians, John commends them for their spiritual progress. He notes that because they know God, their sins have been forgiven, they have been able to overcome Satan, live out of strength, and learn the Bible to the degree that it has become internalized so deeply into their hearts and minds that it has become part of them. For those true Christians who have experienced what John lists as evidences of salvation (in contrast to the false Christians who had infiltrated their ranks), John commands against worldliness. Worldliness in the Bible does not mean that Christians are to abstain from culture, but rather that we should abstain from the ways of thinking, valuing, and behaving that are contrary to God's will, as revealed in Scripture. John describes worldliness as the cravings of our sinful flesh (gluttony, sexual perversion, drunkenness, etc.), lust of our eyes (sexual lust, coveting, etc.), and arrogant pride that causes us to boast in ourselves without ever thanking God. In our age filled with advertising, rock stars, supermodels, and celebrities, it is not an overstatement to say that if worldliness means living

only to please our flesh and pursue what our eyes lust after—so that we can arrogantly boast about our conquests and accomplishments—then worldliness is a synonym for America. Therefore, John reminds us that the world is going to burn up in the end; but if we belong to God we will live forever with Him, and so we must remain ever vigilant to love God and not the world.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Questions for Personal Study

- What does it mean that the Word of God lives in you?
- Mark the following verses on the world in your Bible and summarize what the Bible means by that term (1 John 2:15-17, 3:1, 3:13, 4:1, 4:3-5, 4:9, 5:4-5, 5:19).
- Why should we not love the world?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- How long have you been a Christian? What are some of the biggest struggles/trials God has enabled you to overcome?
- What is worldliness and why should Christians avoid it?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that the world we live in is filled with temptation to sin and so we must be careful to avoid the sins we are tempted to commit. Explain to them that sometimes the world tempts us to sin by giving us things that taste or feel good but are not good for us. Teach them that such things include common kid-sins like stealing candy, pop, and other goodies from the snack drawer to eat in hiding. Teach them that older kids do the same with such things as drugs, sex, and alcohol but just because something feels or tastes good does not mean that it is good for you.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that our world tempts them to sin by having them see things that they want so they will steal them or whine at their parents to buy them. Explain that we can't always have something just because we see it and want it. Further explain to them that such things as television ads are showing them things in order to take their parents' money; therefore, they should not always whine for and demand things that they see in television or while shopping at the store with their parent(s).

Wednesday: Teach your children that pride is one of the very worse sins, and that this is what got Satan kicked out of Heaven. Explain to them the difference between confidence and arrogance. Confidence is when we trust God and the abilities He has given us and thank Him for allowing us to do things well. Arrogance is when we forget God and take credit for the things we do and skills we have. Teach your children that humility is much better than pride, and that Jesus was very humble.

Thursday: Teach your children that if they memorize and study the Bible that it will live inside of them. Then, when they need to make decisions in life the parts of the Bible they have learned will help them. Ask them which parts of the Bible they think are tucked away in their hearts.

Friday: Spend some time simply reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

Saturday: Explain to your children that if we are Christians who love Jesus, one day we will be with Him in Heaven. Teach them that in Heaven there will be all of the fun things that we like in life, only without sickness, sin, death, or nighttime. Ask your children if they have any questions about Heaven for you.

Sunday: Tell your children that you want them to pay attention to the lesson at church and to help welcome any new children they see. After church ask them on the drive home what they learned in their lesson.



week 5

Scripture to Read

II John

Summary of the Texts

II John is written to a lady who may be either a real woman or a metaphor for the local church. The book summarizes a number of themes from I John such as: obeying the Father's commands (:4), loving one another (:5), resisting false teaching (:7-8), not aiding false teachers (:10), and joy (:12). The problem that II John addresses is that Christians are supposed to practice hospitality and invite people into their homes for friendship and theological discussion. But, heretical false teachers were abusing this kindness to lead people astray, which was destroying the church. Therefore, II John was written to warn Christians in the church to continue to love one another but not to extend Christian fellowship to heretical false teachers. The matter is so pressing that John himself closes the letter by promising to come in person to straighten out the problems that have been caused. In this we see the importance of not only being loving and hospitable people, but also of being discerning people who do not allow heretics and evil-doers sent by Satan into our homes and church as friends.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

"Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist." – II John 7

Questions for Personal Study

- How does Satan manipulate Christian love and hospitality to gain entrance into the church through false teachers?
- How do we know that we love God?
- What does John mean by the terms “deceiver” and “antichrist?”

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Why is Christian love and hospitality so important? How have you seen Christian hospitality abused by some people?
- How can you prevent false teachers and other people with aberrant theological agendas from joining your group and leading the people there astray? How should you handle someone who attends your group and adamantly opposes true doctrine? What will happen if your group fails to deal with this person swiftly?
- How can you be praying for the health of the church and the various Community Groups so that they do not become entry points for divisive false teachers?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Teach your children that God gives us **grace** (blessings that we don't deserve), **mercy** (withholding punishment we do deserve), and **peace** (loving relationship with God and other people) through Jesus. Spend some time explaining each of these three great words so that your children understand them.

Tuesday: Teach your children that God and His pastors become filled with joy when people walk with God faithfully. Explain to them that you too are very happy when you see that your children love God and obey Him. Tell them some of the ways they have recently given you joy and pray over them, thanking God for the children.

Wednesday: Teach your children that if they love God they will obey God, and that if they love you they will also obey you. Stress that you and God love them and only want the best for them, so your house rules (e.g. no jumping on the bed) and God's Bible rules (e.g. obey your mom and dad) are there out of love for them. Ask them if there are any Bible rules or house rules they don't understand or like, and then take the time to explain why they are important so the children can understand and appreciate those rules.

Thursday: Teach your children that there are lots of people who do not believe that Jesus is God. Explain to them that some people are not Christians and they need to be prayed for, loved, and told about Jesus so that they can become Christians. Also teach them that some people say evil things about Jesus and try to lead God's people astray into not believing that Jesus is God. Stress that it is very important that they love Jesus and learn the Bible so that they can always know the truth and not believe lies about Jesus.

Friday: Explain to your children that God wants His people to be hospitable and to have people over to their homes for food and friendship. Teach them how to be thoughtful toward guests and ask them about the favorite experiences they have had practicing hospitality for others, as well as the favorite experiences they have had being entertained at someone else's home.

Saturday: Spend some time reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

Sunday: Spend some time doing Kids' Bible Questions from the back of this booklet.



week 6

Scripture to Read

III John

Summary of the Texts

III John is written to John's Christian friend Gaius. The brief letter includes the words "truth," "children," and "love," which are also frequent throughout I John. The book in large part is the sorting out of a conflict between three men: Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius. The ungodly Diotrephes is rebuked for being a pushy man who appointed himself as an authority and leader in the church, yet who refuses to fellowship with other Christians or welcome the leaders whom God had chosen for the church. Gaius is commended as a leader in the church because he's a godly man who loved the truth and practiced hospitality to fellow Christians. Gaius may not have been as pushy and loud as Diotrephes, but he had much better character and doctrine, and was therefore a better choice for leadership and respect in the church. Lastly, Demetrius was probably the carrier of the letter that John wrote to the church. He also may have been a leader, trained by John at the church in Ephesus, sent to the church to help straighten out the leadership mess by commending Gaius and condemning Diotrephes. In this letter we discover the importance of not allowing pushy men to elevate themselves as self-appointed leaders in the church. Instead, men of good character and doctrine should be held in high esteem, even if they tend to be less pushy and loud as the false teachers.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

III John 11 “Dear friends, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.”

Questions for Personal Study

- What traits listed about Diotrephes make for an unqualified and poor leader?
- What traits listed about Demetrius make for a qualified and godly leader?
- What things does John commend the church for excelling in?
- If Diotrephes is not removed from leadership, what may happen to the church?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What does this brief letter describe as healthy traits to pursue as a church?
- What traits do false leaders possess? What traits do God’s leaders possess?
- What experiences have you had witnessing the wrong person leading in the church?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Teach your children that wanting to be first, being selfish, and not thinking of others is a terrible sin that displeases God. Explain to them that helping other people, sharing with them, and thinking of them first makes God happy, because we are acting loving. Ask your children to share any examples they can remember in which they were considerate of another person over themselves, as well as times they have sinned and been selfish.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that when we are frustrated or unhappy with someone that God wants us to speak with the person directly and work it out, rather than speaking about him and gossiping to other people. Ask them to remember a time that someone gossiped about them and said bad things about them to someone else, and how that made them feel.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that some people are loud and pushy and always like to be the leader, bossing other people around. But, just because someone tells everyone else what to do does not mean that they get to be in charge. God wants people to be leaders who love Him and who love other people. So, your children will need to learn that bossy kids and bullies do not need to be obeyed or followed by them.

Thursday: Teach your children that we are supposed to choose godly people whom we respect as examples for us to learn from. Ask them which people they respect and want to imitate, and why.

Friday: Spend some time reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

Saturday: Spend some time asking your children questions from the back of this booklet.

Sunday: Pray with your children before attending church, asking that they will be well-behaved, will learn, and will welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and if there is anyone or anything they want you to pray for.





week 7

Scripture to Read

I John 2:18-27

Summary of the Texts

This section breaks into the topics of antichrists (various false teachers working for Satan who are anti/against Jesus Christ) who lead us away from Jesus (2:18-19) which is also the third purpose for which the book was written (2:26), and the Holy Spirit who leads us to eternal life Jesus (2:20-27). The antichrists were in the church for a season, but had apparently left causing confusion among people in the church as to whether or not they were ever Christians. John simply states that because these heretics never came back to Jesus, true biblical doctrine, or the church they never were Christians in the first place. But, Christians who have the Holy Spirit no the truth, worship Jesus as God, continue in truth throughout their life without falling into heresy, and ends in eternal life. In this lesson we learn that the greatest weapon we have against false teachers who are trying to lead us astray is the Holy Spirit who teaches us the truth and keeps us from straying from Jesus.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 2:23 "No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also."

Questions for Personal Study

- What are the characteristics of false teachers who are anti-Christ in 2:18-19?
- What ministries does the Holy Spirit perform in our lives to keep us from falling astray according to 2:20-27? According to these verses how do God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit (the Trinity) work together?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What did you learn from false teachers in this passage? What did you learn about the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in this passage? How is the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit counterfeited by false teachers?
- Do you regularly pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you before you study and/or read the Bible? Why is this important?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend some time reading Bible stories to and praying with your children.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that God the Holy Spirit lives inside Christians and helps them learn about God and live their life for God. Teach them that if they ask Him, the Holy Spirit will help them learn the Bible, learn how to pray, and learn how to live for God so they should often ask the Holy Spirit to help, teach, and lead them. Ask if they have any questions about the Holy Spirit and answer them.

Wednesday: Teach your children that it is not only important for them to learn about God and live as a Christian but that they will need to continue doing so for the rest of their life. Explain to them that some people stop going to church, loving God, and worshiping Jesus and why this is so sad.

Thursday: Spend time asking your children questions from the back of this booklet.

Friday: Spend some time reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

Saturday: Spend time singing worship songs with your children and praying together.

Sunday: Pray with your children before attending church, asking that they will be well-behaved, will learn, and will welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and if there is anyone or anything they want you to pray for.



week 8

Scripture to Read

1 John 2:28-3:10

Summary of the Texts

In this section John contrasts God and His children with Satan and his followers. John teaches us who God is--namely righteous, loving, pure, sinless, and victorious over Satan and sin. And, God who is our Father has spiritual children and they are Christians. Christians, therefore, seek to imitate God by doing what is right, purifying themselves from sin, overcoming sin, and loving fellow Christians. Conversely, Satan and his followers are referred to as lawbreakers, sinful, wayward, wrongdoers, and unloving. In this section we see that all of humanity can be divided into two categories: those who belong to God and those who belong to Satan.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

1 John 3:4 "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact sin is lawlessness."

Questions for Personal Study

- What is John's definition of sin?
- How does 1:8,10 help to shed light on 3:6?
- Why are Christianity and habitual sin incompatible according to this section?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Why is it important that we understand the family motif: God is a Father, we are the children He loves, and He wants us to love our brothers and sisters in the faith?
- What did you find most helpful, and what did you find most surprising about the list of evidences that someone is part of God's family?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Teach your children John's definition of sin in 3:4 so that they understand that it is wrong for them to disobey God's laws, which include the law that they should obey their parents (Exodus 20:12).

Tuesday: Teach your children that God loves them like a Father/Daddy and that they are His children. Let them know that the church is supposed to be like a family with people who love each other like brothers and sisters. Then, spend some time in prayer for Christians that they know, thanking God for Christian friends.

Wednesday: Teach your children that being a Christian is both believing that Jesus is God, and living our lives like Jesus. Ask them what qualities in Jesus' life (e.g. not sinning) they think they should be imitating, and spend some time in prayer together asking God to help them both believe and live as a Christian.

Thursday: Spend some time singing worship songs and praying with your children.

Friday: Spend some time reading Bible stories about Jesus with your children

Saturday: Ask your children some questions from the back of this booklet.

Sunday: Pray with your children before attending church, asking that they will be well-behaved, will learn, and will welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and if there is anyone or anything they want you to pray for.



week 9

Scripture to Read

I John 3:11-24

Summary of the Texts

In this section John revisits the importance of Christians loving one another. He likens hatred of a fellow Christian to murder, going so far as to compare Christian hatred to Cain killing Abel in Genesis 4. John goes on to remind us that Jesus' death on our behalf is the quintessential example of what it means to loving. He then urges Christians to be loving not merely with words, but more importantly with actions, such as helping those with material needs. In this way, we can have assurance of our salvation: if we love Jesus as our God and love fellow Christians as our brothers and sisters with both our words and good works. In this section we learn that both Jesus' love for us and our love for one another is not merely a sentimental love that we feel, but an efficacious love that transforms us to be agents of transformation in the lives of others through the power of love. Simply, love is seen in what we do as much as in what we say.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 3:18 "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Questions for Personal Study

- Why is it important that Christian love be shown and not merely spoken?
- How is Jesus' example of sacrificial love much different than what most people today consider love?
- Why is the presence of the Holy Spirit in us the ultimate proof of our salvation?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Why is it important to know that at the foundation of our faith is God's love for us, as shown in Jesus' death for our sin?
- Why is it impossible to say we love Jesus and not love fellow Christians?
- What does this say about people who claim Christ but do not like Christians or church?
- How many people do you know who claim to love Jesus but not Christians? How can you pray for them and pursue them with the truth of this passage?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Teach your children that the first two children in the world were Cain and Abel. Read them the story of Genesis 4 and explain to them that they should not act out of anger or hit siblings (or other young people), because in anger they could hurt or kill someone.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that not only is killing someone very sinful, but hating someone is as well. Teach them that when people sin against them or make them angry they need to forgive them and not lash out in anger. If they have had any problems with this, use those instances as an example for them to learn from.

Wednesday: Teach your children that we can tell who loves us by what they do. Explain that when they share things with friends or help people in need they are loving people like God wants them to, and so they should be happy when they get to share.

Thursday: Teach your children that because of sin everyone is supposed to die and live forever in Hell separated from God. But, because Jesus lived in our place without sin, died for our sin, and rose three days later to forgive our sin, we can be forgiven and now live forever with Him and other Christians. Make sure they know that Jesus did this because He loves them so dearly.

Friday: Ask your children who they can be more loving to and how they can help and share with people in need. Then, make plans with them to act lovingly in the ways that they articulated.

Saturday: Spend some time reading the Bible or asking questions from the end of this booklet with your children.

Sunday: Spend some time thanking God together with your children for all the people who love them and all the people that they get to love.



week 10

Scripture to Read

I John 4:1-6

Summary of the Texts

Active in our world are God and Satan, angels and demons. Therefore, just because someone has spiritual power or insight does not mean that the spirit(s) empowering them are from God. This would obviously include everything from the occult to witchcraft, and spiritual teachers and religious leaders who are both allegedly Christian and non-Christian. Therefore, we must carefully test spirits by the messages they convey, either directly or through someone else who claims to have received insight or power from a spirit.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 4:1 "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Questions for Personal Study

- Who are some of the most popular false prophets/teachers you are aware of?
- What is the difference between a true and false spiritual leader/teacher?
- Why are false teachers/prophets so popular?
- Why does Satan empower false teachers?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What examples come to mind of people who do not worship Jesus as fully God and fully man, but who are popular because of their spiritual powers or insights?
- Why are false spiritual leaders/teachers so perennially popular?
- How can you tell the difference between a spiritual leader/teacher empowered by the Holy Spirit and someone empowered by a demon?
- Why is it so important to be discerning and to only embrace the instruction of true teachers?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend some time reading the Bible and praying with your children.

Tuesday: Teach your children that we live in a world that is both physical (what we see) and spiritual (what we don't see) and that both worlds have good and evil. Explain to them that in the physical world there are people who love Jesus and people who do not. And, the same is true in the spiritual world, as angels love God and demons do not. But, the good news is that God is stronger than everyone and everything, so if we pray to Him we have nothing to worry about. Make sure that your children know that when they are scared (e.g. in bed at night) or in need they can always ask Jesus to help and protect them.

Wednesday: Spend time asking your children questions from the back of this booklet

Thursday: Teach your children that there are good spiritual teachers who love Jesus and teach the Bible, as well as bad teachers who don't love Jesus and don't teach the Bible. Explain to them that it is important for them to only believe things taught about Jesus from people who love Jesus and teach the truth about Him from the Bible.

Friday: Spend some time singing worship songs and praying with your children.

Saturday: Teach your children that just because an idea is popular with a lot of people does not mean it is true. Explain to them that a lot of people believe things about Jesus and what is right and wrong that are just not true, so they need to always check with you and God to know what is true and right and what is false and wrong. Ask them if they can think of any kids they know who believe wrong things, so that you can work with them on understanding this principle.

Sunday: Pray with your children before attending church, asking that they will be well-behaved, will learn, and will welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and if there is anyone or anything they want you to pray for.





week 11

Scripture to Read

I John 4:7-16

Summary of the Texts

This text is one of the greatest and most thorough texts in the entire Bible on what love is. It tells us that God is love, that God loves us in Jesus' death for our sins, and that God gives us His love to share with one another. It further explains that true love is not possible apart from God, but that by God the Holy Spirit we can love others as Jesus has loved us.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 4:8-9 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

Questions for Personal Study

- To better understand the biblical definition of love, examine I Corinthians 13:4-8a. What roles do the members of the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit) have in showing and giving us love in I John 4:7-16?
- How does John's explanation of love differ from what is commonly meant in our culture by love?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Why must our definition of love begin with God and now our feelings or opinions of what love is? What is love?
- How is each member of the Trinity involved in showing us and giving us God's love? Do you truly believe that God is love? Do you truly believe that God loves you? How have you seen God's love at work in your life?
- Which non-Christians are you praying will embrace God's love and love God?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Teach your children what love is from I Corinthians 13:4-8a.

Tuesday: Spend some time in prayer with your children for friends, family, and neighbors you know who do not love God but need to know that God loves them and that Jesus died to forgive their sin.

Wednesday: Teach your children that God is a loving God who deeply loves them. Explain to them that Jesus died because of love for them, and that if they love Jesus the Holy Spirit brings God's love to them so that they can share that love with other people. Ask them who they need to be sharing God's love with and pray for those people.

Thursday: Spend time asking your children questions from the back of this booklet.

Friday: Explain to your children that God is love, that God has loved you, and that when you love your children that you are loving them with the love that God gave you. Make sure that they understand that one of the ways God loves them is through you, including the various things you do for them out of love for God and them.

Saturday: At the beginning of the day pray with your children for opportunities to say and do loving things throughout the day. At the end of the day revisit with your children what it was like to love people and what they learned.

Sunday: Get some time singing worship songs with your children and discussing what they learned at church.



week 12

Scripture to Read

I John 4:17 – 5:5

Summary of the Texts

In this section John continues on his great theme of love. He begins by saying that once we embrace God's love and love God in return out of our new hearts, we no longer need to serve God out of fear that He will send us to Hell. Practically, this means that we do not need to seek to earn or merit God's love by doing good things out of fear of going to Hell. Instead, God's love frees us from worrying about facing His wrath because Jesus has already suffered in our place on the cross; so we now can lovingly serve God freely because we love Him in response to His love for us. Subsequently, because God loves us and we love God we will also love the other people whom God loves—our Christian brothers and sisters. And, if we are truly Christians who love God, we will love to obey God's Word because we know that He is loving and good and therefore so too are His commands.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."

Questions for Personal Study

- Why should we love and obey God? Why should we love fellow Christians?
- How can we live in victory over the sin and temptations of the world?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- How is obedience out of the fear of punishment and obedience out of a love for God very different motivations?
- What does it mean that God loved us first? Why does this matter?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Explain to your children that your love for them is unconditional and no matter what they do you will always love and forgive them. Teach them that your love for them is not something that they must earn by being good or doing the right things. Further teach them that because you love them you make rules for them to follow to keep them safe and healthy. And, make sure they know that you want to have a relationship where they love you back and obey you so that you can take good care of them.

Tuesday: Ask your children some questions from the back of this booklet.

Wednesday: Explain to your children that God's love for them is unconditional and no matter what they do He will always love and forgive them. Teach them that God's love for them is not something that they must earn by being good or doing the right things. Further teach them that because God loves them He makes rules for them to follow to keep them safe and healthy. And, make sure they know that God wants to have a relationship where they love Him back and obey Him so that He can take good care of them.

Thursday: Spend some time singing worship songs and praying together for people your children love.

Friday: Spend some time asking your children who God has put in their lives who needs love from them, and then pray for opportunities for your children to be loving toward them.

Saturday: Spend time reading Bible stories to and praying for your children

Sunday: After church follow up with your children to see what they learned and if there were any new kids who they got to meet and welcome.



week 13

Scripture to Read

I John 5:6-13

Summary of the Texts

This section is perhaps the most difficult in all of I John. John reasons that God has given us ample evidence to believe in Jesus because He has testified through the water, blood, and Spirit. Until we see John in Heaven and ask him, we may never know with certainty what he meant. But, five interpretive options have been offered by varying commentators. 1. The reference to the blood and water may refer to the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side at His crucifixion. 2. The blood may refer to communion and the water may refer to baptism. 3. The blood may refer to Jesus' death and the water may refer to His baptism. 4. The blood may refer to Jesus' death and the water may refer to Jesus' physical birth. 5. The blood may refer to the death of the Jesus and the water may be a metaphor for the Scriptures taken from such verses as Psalm 119:9; Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3.

In this section we also find the fourth reason that the book was written, namely to enable us to have certainty about our salvation (5:13). This certainty of our salvation is incredibly important because without it we would live with continual fear and worry about whether or not God loved us, which is a terrifying way to live.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Questions for Personal Study

- The assurance of our salvation comes down to one issue; what is that issue?
- Why is it vital that someone be certain that they have eternal life?
- Do you have eternal life? How do you know with certainty?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- The assurance of our salvation comes down to one issue; what is that issue?
- According to the rest of the book that preceded 5:13 what are evidences in a person's life that they have been saved by Jesus? What evidences in your own life do you lean on to help assure you of your salvation?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend some time reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

Tuesday: Teach your children that we can know whether or not we are loved by God and are going to Heaven when we die. And, if we love Jesus as God then we can be sure that God loves us and we are Christians. Ask your children if they love Jesus, and if so why they love Him.

Wednesday: Spend some time with your children singing worship songs and answering questions from the back of this booklet.

Thursday: Spend some time in prayer with your children for people who you know who don't know Jesus but need to.

Friday: Spend some time discussing with your children why they love Jesus, and then pray together thanking God for His love.

Saturday: Teach your children that in other religions people cannot know if they are loved by God and are going to Heaven, because in other religions you have to be good for God to love you. Make sure they understand that we can know we are going to Heaven not because of what we do, but because Jesus died and rose for our sins, and that God does not love us if we are good but rather loves us to make us good.

Sunday: After church follow up with your children to see what they learned and if there were any new kids who they got to meet and welcome.





week 14

Scripture to Read

I John 5:14-21

Summary of the Texts

This section begins by teaching us to have confidence in our prayers to God because He loves us and always hears our requests. It then encourages us to pray for anything and everything, including fellow Christians who are struggling with sin. But, we are then told to specifically not pray for Christians who are committing “a sin that leads to death.” This verse has befuddled commentators for years because its meaning was apparently widely known in John’s day but has been lost in our own. While we cannot be absolutely certain of its meaning, there are four common options: 1. The sin that leads to death may be some very heinous sin that God cannot forgive, but this verse would then mean that Jesus’ death was not sufficient for any and every sin, which makes this interpretation invalid. 2. The sin that leads to death may be apostasy, or a Christian who turns from God and becomes a non-Christian. But, this interpretation is invalid in light of the Bible’s teaching that our salvation is secure, including the book’s prior teaching that anyone who turns their back on God was not saved in the first place (2:19). 3. The sin that leads to death may be the same thing that Jesus called blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32) which is the attributing

of Jesus' powers to Satan, thereby renouncing Jesus as an evil demon. 4. The sin that leads to death may be any sin that God chooses to take the life of the offender for committing, as is referred on a few occasions in the New Testament (Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 5:5, 11:30).

The book then concludes with yet another reminder for God's people to not sin or pursue idolatry, which is the worshiping of either the wrong object, or worshiping the right God in a way that is not biblical. Instead, we are commanded to live life with an eternal perspective focused on Jesus Christ is clearly called God in 5:20.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 5:21 "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols."

Questions for Personal Study

- How is your confidence in prayer compared to 5:14-15?
- What is idolatry?
- What five or six things have most impacted you from the study of I John?
- What changes will you make, or have you made, as a result of studying I John?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- How does reading 5:14-15 increase your confidence in prayer? How can the group be praying for you?
- What about I John has been most insightful and impacting to your life? What changes have you made or will you make in your life as a result of studying I John?
- Do you have a certainty about your salvation after studying the book?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend some time singing worship songs and praying with your children.

Tuesday: Teach your children that prayer is how we talk to God and that He loves us and will hear our prayers no matter what we pray about. Explain to them that though God hears our prayers, sometimes He answers “yes,” sometimes He answers “no,” and sometimes He answers later and wants us to wait. Therefore, just because a prayer request is not immediately answered in the way we wanted does not mean that God did not hear it or does not care about us.

Wednesday: Spend some time reading Bible stories and praying with your children thanking God for good things in their lives.

Thursday: Teach your children that when people have troubles or needs they can always pray for that person and ask God to help them. Then, spend some time together praying for the specific needs of people they know.

Friday: Spend some time asking your children questions from the end of this booklet.

Saturday: Explain to your children that idolatry is when we worship anything or anyone other than Jesus. This can include worshiping other false gods, such things as witchcraft, or just ignoring God and doing what we think is best. Ask your children if they know of anyone who worships idols and pray together for that person to meet Jesus.

Sunday: Before church explain to your children why your family goes to church and how important it is for them to learn about God there and to welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and who they got to welcome.

125 kids' bible questions

The point of the Kids' Bible Questions is to both teach your children and also find out how much of what you are teaching them they are remembering. The following questions range from very simple to more complicated and you can choose which ones are best for your children. If you can think of additional questions feel free to use them also. These questions are ones that I have used with my kids, and some are suggestions from them. As you ask these questions your children will likely have lots of questions of their own so do take your time to answer their questions as that is incredibly important and gives you insight to their degree of understanding about God.

Questions about God

Q: How many Gods are there?

A: One

Q: What is the Trinity?

A: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit

Q: What are four names for God?

A: Christ, Jesus, Lord, Father, God, Holy Spirit, King, etc.

Q: Who made God?

A: No one, God has lived forever

Q: Where is God?

A: In Heaven and everywhere

Q: Is there anything or anyone more powerful than God?

A: No

Q: Name three miracles God has done.

A: Created the world, parted the Red Sea, brought manna down from Heaven, came to earth as Jesus to the virgin Mary, walked on water, healed people, rose from death, etc.

Q: What does God know?

A: Everything

Questions about the Bible

Q: Who wrote the Bible?

A: God told His people what to write down

Q: Does the Bible have any mistakes?

A: No, it is perfect

Q: What is the most important thing in the Bible?

A: Jesus

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times before Jesus was born?

A: Old Testament

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times after Jesus was born?

A: New Testament

Q: How many books are in the Bible?

A: 66

Q: How many books are in the Old Testament?

A: 39

Q: What is the first book of the Bible?

A: Genesis

Q: How many books are in the New Testament?

A: 27

Q: What is the last book of the Bible?

A: Revelation

Q: Name three people who wrote books of the Bible.

A: Moses, David, Solomon, John, Paul, Peter, etc.

Q: What are the four gospels?

A: The stories about Jesus' life

Q: Who wrote the four gospels?

A: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Q: What does the Bible call a preacher?

A: A prophet

Q: Name three prophets from the Bible.

A: Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Jonah, Jesus, etc.

Q: Which book of the Bible was written especially for little kids?

A: Proverbs (1:4)

Questions about Jesus

Q: Who is Jesus?

A: God

Q: Where was Jesus born?

A: Bethlehem

Q: Who was Jesus' dad?

A: Joseph

Q: Who was Jesus' mom?

A: Mary

Q: Did Jesus ever sin?

A: No

Q: Who were Jesus' brothers?

A: James and Jude

Q: Who were some of Jesus' best friends?

A: Peter, James, John, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, etc.

Q: How did Jesus die?

A: Mean people nailed Him to a cross

Q: When Jesus died what did they stick into His heart?

A: A spear

Q: What did they do with Jesus' body?

A: Wrapped it up and put it in a tomb

Q: How long was Jesus dead for?

A: Three days

Q: Is Jesus dead today?

A: No, he is alive because he rose from death

Q: Where is Jesus today?

A: He is in Heaven

Q: What do we celebrate at Christmas?

A: Jesus' birth

Q: What do we celebrate at Easter?

A: Jesus' resurrection

Q: Is Jesus ever coming back to earth?

A: Yes, to take us to Heaven

Q: Why did Jesus die?

A: For our sins

Q: Why did Jesus die for our sins?

A: He loves us

Questions about the Disciples

Q: What do you call someone who learns from their teacher?

A: A disciple

Q: Name three of Jesus' Disciples?

A: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas

Q: Who was the man who hated Christians before God changed his heart and made him a Christian pastor?

A: Saul/Paul

Q: Which Disciple betrayed Jesus?

A: Judas

Q: Who was Jesus' best friend and youngest Disciple?

A: John

Q: Who was the lead Disciple?

A: Peter

Q: Which Disciple doubted that Jesus had risen from death?

A: Thomas

Questions about creation

Q: Who made everything?

A: God

Q: Why did God make everything?

A: For us to enjoy

Q: Why did God make everything so beautiful?

A: Because God is an artist

Questions about Christian Living

Q: What is a Christian?

A: Someone whose God is Jesus

Q: What is prayer?

A: When we talk to God

Q: What can we pray to God about?

A: Anything

Q: Why should we obey God?

A: Because He loves us and knows what is good for us

Q: Are we supposed to worship other people?

A: No

Q: Who are we supposed to worship?

A: God/Jesus

Q: What are some ways we can worship God?

A: Reading the Bible, praying, serving, doing chores, telling others about Jesus, obeying God, obeying mom and dad, singing, etc.

Q: Give three reasons why Christians go to church.

A: To learn about God, to worship God, to see Christian friends, to take communion, etc.

Q: What is communion supposed to remind us of?

A: Jesus' body and blood for our sins

Q: What is baptism?

A: Christians showing that Jesus died and rose to cleanse them from sin

Q: What is tithing?

A: Giving money to pay for things at church

Q: What should we do to people who aren't Christians?

A: Be nice to them, tell them about Jesus, and pray to God for them.

Q: Name a godly child in the Bible.

A: David, Samuel, Jesus, Joseph, Daniel, etc.

Q: Who hit his brother and killed him?

A: Cain killed Abel

Questions about Heaven

Q: Can you get to Heaven just by being good?

A: No

Q: How do you get to Heaven?

A: You have to ask Jesus to forgive your sins

Q: Does everyone go to Heaven when they die?

A: No, only Christians

Q: What will we do in Heaven?

A: Sing, eat, play with friends, be with God, etc.

Q: Will kids be in Heaven?

A: Yes, God loves children and they can love God

Q: Will animals be in Heaven?

A: Yes

Q: Will Heaven be scary?

A: No, everything is fun and it never even gets dark

Q: Who is in charge of Heaven?

A: God

Q: What does Jesus sit on in Heaven?

A: A big throne

Q: Will there be angels in Heaven?

A: Yes, and they will sing to God with us

Q: Will anyone sin in Heaven?

A: No

Q: Will anyone get sick or die in Heaven?

A: No

Q: Will anyone be sad in Heaven?

A: No, everyone will be happy

Q: Will there be music in Heaven?

A: Yes, God loves music, God sings, God has instruments in Heaven, and people, angels, and animals will all sing in Heaven

Q: Will there be parties in Heaven?

A: Yes

Q: What do you think we will do at the parties in Heaven?

A: Eat food, sing, dance, laugh, play games, see our friends, meet God, etc.

Questions about sin

Q: What is sin?

A: Sin is when you don't do what you are supposed to, or do what you are not supposed to

Q: What are some sins you have done?

A: Yelling, not sharing, stealing, yelling, lying, etc.

Q: Is it a sin to not do what your mom or dad say?

A: Yes

Q: What sin did the Israelites commit while walking around for forty years?

A: Whining and complaining

Q: Is it a sin to make a mistake?

A: No, everyone makes mistakes (e.g. spilling your milk) and they are not sins

Q: Who sins?

A: Everyone but Jesus

Q: Why did Jesus die?

A: For our sins

Q: What should we do when we sin?

A: Pray to Jesus to forgive us

Q: What should we do when we sin against someone?

A: Tell them we are sorry and ask them to forgive us

Q: What should we do when someone sins against us?

A: Forgive them like Jesus forgives us

Questions about the Gospel

Q: What is the gospel?

A: The story about Jesus dying for our sins

Q: What is repentance?

A: Asking God to forgive our sins

Q: What is grace?

A: When God gives us something we don't deserve (like love or forgiveness)

Q: What is mercy?

A: When God doesn't give us something we deserve because he loves us (like Jesus dying for our sins so that we don't have to)

Q: What is faith?

A: Trusting God

Questions for boys

Q: Name four godly men in the Bible?

A: Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Caleb, David, John, Paul, etc.

Q: Name two warriors from the Bible.

A: David, Gideon, Samson, etc.

Q: Who is the strongest man in the Bible?

A: Samson

Q: Name two godly kings in the Bible.

A: David, Josiah, Jesus, Melchizedek, etc.

Q: Name a sinful king in the Bible.

A: Pharaoh, Herod, etc.

Q: Name two people in the Bible who hold a sword.

A: David, Gideon, Peter, Jesus, etc.

Q: Who was the shepherd boy who killed Goliath?

A: David

Q: What weapon did David use to kill Goliath?

A: A sling with a rock in it

Q: Name three things that a Christian husband is supposed to do.

A: Love God, love his wife, work hard, make money, etc.

Q: Name three things that a Christian daddy is supposed to do.

A: Love God, love his kids, teach his kids the Bible, pray with his kids, play with his kids, discipline his kids, etc.

Q: What did John the Baptist wear?

A: A camel's hair cloak

Q: What will Jesus be like when he comes back to stop the bad guys?

A: He will ride a horse, wear a white robe dipped in blood, and have a sword coming from His mouth

Q: If Satan is a Dragon what will Jesus do to him?

A: Jesus will slay the dragon with His sword

Questions for girls

Q: Name three godly women in the Bible.

A: Mary, Esther, Ruth, Elizabeth, Miriam, Deborah, Rahab, etc.

Q: Name two sinful women from the Bible.

A: Delilah, Potiphar's wife, Jezebel, Tamar, Herodias's daughter, Bathsheeba, etc.

Q: Who was Jesus' mom?

A: Mary

Q: Which lady sang and danced to worship God after he parted the Red Sea?

A: Moses' sister Miriam

Q: Name three things that a Christian wife is supposed to do.

A: Love God, respect her husband, work hard, take care of her family, etc.

Q: Name three things that a Christian mom is supposed to do.

A: Love God, love her kids, teach her kids, read books and the Bible with her kids, feed her kids, discipline her kids, pray with her kids, play with her kids, etc.

Q: Who should tell a girl who she should marry?

A: Her daddy

Q: Name a princess or queen in the Bible.

A: Pharaoh's daughter, Queen Esther, etc.

Silly Questions

Q: Who was the short man who climbed into a tree to see Jesus?

A: Zacchaeus

Q: What did the kids sing when Jesus came into town?

A: Hosanna!

Q: What swallowed Jonah?

A: A whale

Q: What did John the Baptist eat as a kid?

A: Bugs and honey

Q: What animal brought food to Elijah the prophet?

A: A raven

recommended reading

Commentaries on I-III John

*easy reading level

**moderate reading level

***difficult reading level

**Daniel Akin, I, 2, 3 John – New American Commentary is a good exposition of each verse of John's letters.

**James Montgomery Boice, The Epistles of John: An Expository Commentary. This well-known pastor's commentary focuses heavily on teaching Christians how to apply I John to their daily lives.

***I Howard Marshall, The Epistles of John - The New International Commentary on the New Testament. This work covers all three of John's letters in great depth, with a more technical and academic approach.

*J. Vernon McGee, I John - Thru the Bible Commentary. McGee takes a very refreshingly simple and practical approach to biblical interpretation. His commentary is simple, to the point, and very readable.

**John R.W. Stott, The Letters of John: An Introduction and Commentary–Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. This inexpensive paperback is a good introduction to John's three letters.

Resources on Gnosticism

Peter Jones, [The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back: An Old Heresy for the New Age](#). A Good introduction to Gnosticism in the wider culture.

Philip J. Lee, [Against the Protestant Gnostics](#). A fascinating look at how Gnosticism has affected much of modern Protestant theology and practice.

Simone Petrement, [A Separate God: The Christian Origins of Gnosticism](#). This comprehensive and technical work is a fantastic overview of the origins and teachings of Gnosticism.

Kurt Rudolph, [Gnosis: The Nature and History of Gnosticism](#). This is the standard introduction to Gnosticism as a distinct historical-religious system.

Edwin Yamauchi, [Pre-Christian Gnosticism: A Survey of the Proposed Evidences](#). A very thorough and insightful historical investigation of the developments of Gnostic teachings.

www.modernreformation.com July/August 1995 issue is on the issue of Gnosticism

notes

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