

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 5, 2005

Passage: 1 John 5:16-21

Memory Passage: Galatians 6:1 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:14-16.** What is the context for verse 16? What assurance does John give in these verses?
- (b) What assurance does he give in verse 16? How is it related to the one in the previous verses?
- (c) What concern does John mention that ought to prompt us to prayer? Is this person a believer or not?
- (d) Compare this with Galatians 6:1-2. What should be the attitude of believers toward the sins of other believers?
- (e) What was Moses' attitude toward the sins of Israel in Numbers 14:11-21 and Deuteronomy 9:18-20? What did he do?
- (f) How did God respond? In what ways might this be similar to our passage in 1 John 5:16?
- (g) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:14-16. Talk together about the importance of praying for each other. What do most people do when they know about a sin that someone has been overcome by? What does John encourage us to do instead? Pray together for someone that is struggling with an area of sin.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:16-17.** Is John referring to a particular sin here? Why doesn't he specify it if it is so dangerous?
- (b) What is the death that John refers to? Is it spiritual or is it physical? This same phrase appears in John 11:4. What does it refer to in this passage?
- (c) Consider 1 Corinthians 5:5; 11:30; and Acts 5:1-11. How might these be related to "sin onto death"?
- (d) Does God discipline his children (Hebrews 12:5-13)? Why does God discipline us?
- (e) What happens if we do not respond to His discipline (Hebrews 12:13)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 5:1-11 and Hebrews 12:5-13. Talk together about the discipline of God. Is this discipline loving? Why should it be an encouragement rather than a discouragement? Could someone be in sin so long that God removes him from this world by death? Pray together that each of you will be sensitive to deal with sin immediately rather than waiting for God's discipline.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read James 5:19-20.** What is the responsibility of believers to those who are "wandering"?
- (b) What kind of death is James referring to here?
- (c) Consider the context of this passage in James 5:14-18. How is this similar to the context of 1 John 5:16?
- (d) But why does John tell us not to pray for some? Why does God tell Jeremiah to not pray in Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14; and 14:11?
- (e) What does John tell us about the nature of sin in 1 John 5:17? How would this be an encouragement to prayer?

(f) What is the emphasis on in 1 John 5:16-17: the sin unto death or the one not unto death? What does this tell us about John's main concern?

(g) *Family*: Read James 5:19-20. Talk about ways that people wander from God. What should be our response when we see someone wandering away? How does regular confession of sin protect us from such wandering? Take a moment to privately confess your sins to God and then claim God's promise in 1 John 1:9.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 5:18-19.** What is the connection between these concluding verses and the warning that preceded them?

(b) What is the prayer that Jesus prays for his disciples in John 17:12? Who was responsible for the keeping in this passage?

(c) Read 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24; Revelation 3:10. In these passages, who keeps the believer?

(d) What does John say about the condition of the whole world?

(e) In John 17:15, what did Jesus pray for his disciples? What similar encouragements has John given believers in this epistle (1 John 2:12-14; 3:8-9; 4:3-4)?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 John 5:18-19. Talk together about the difficulties of living as a believer in this world. How can we have assurance in this difficult situation? What does it mean to be kept by Jesus? Read Philippians 1:6 and then spend time thanking God for His preservation of His children.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 5:20-21.** What do we know about Jesus? How does John describe him at the end of this verse?

(b) Also consider the following verses: Isaiah 45:21; John 14:9; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13; and Hebrews 1:8. What do each of these say about who Jesus is?

(c) What was one of the central contentions of the Gnostics? How does this concluding idea of John counter the claims of the Gnostics?

(d) Why does John end this letter with a warning about idolatry? What is the connection of verse 20 with verse 21?

(e) What is idolatry? Does it only refer to the worship of images? Consider Colossians 3:5. What are we told to do in Colossians 3:1-4?

(f) Read 1 Corinthians 10:11-14. In verse 14, Paul gives the same warning as John. What is the context in verse 13? How does this help us understand a biblical definition of idolatry?

(g) *Family*: Read 1 John 5:20-21 and Colossians 3:1-5. Talk together about *who* Jesus is and why this is essential in Christianity. Discuss idolatry and what it includes. How can we protect ourselves from this? Pray that each of you might understand that Jesus alone is the true God and eternal life.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. John has talked about loving other believers in this epistle. Review what he has taught us about this important priority. What have we learned this week that we should also do for fellow believers? Which is more important, caring for physical needs or praying for spiritual needs? Read Acts 6:1-4. Which is easier to do? What three assurances has John given us in this passage? Pray that you might rest in each of these assurances.