

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 23, 2005

Passage: 1 John 2:1-6

Memory Passage: 1 John 2:1

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 2:1.** How does John begin this section; who is he addressing? Why does he use this term?
- (b) Where did he get this term (John 13:33)? What does this tell you about the nature of the Christian life (Ephesians 2:19)?
- (c) According to 1 John 2:22, how does one become one of these? Why does God forgive our sins?
- (d) According to 1 John 2:23, what is the essence of the Christian life? How is this similar to what John has said in 1 John 1:1-4?
- (e) What had Jesus told his disciples about their relationships with each other (John 13:34-35)? What did John teach regarding these relationships (1 John 3:1-2; 4:20)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 1:1 and Ephesians 2:19. Talk together about the family of God. What does it mean to be part of a church? How is it like a family? How is it better than family? Why does John use “family” terms to address his readers?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:21 again.** What is the reason that John is writing this letter? Does this verse assume that believers will not sin? Explain.
- (b) Why did Jesus come and die according to Titus 2:11-14 and 1 John 3:5?
- (c) What should believers remember when they sin? What does John call Jesus? Compare this to Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25. How are these passages an encouragement to believers who sin?
- (d) What term does John use to describe Jesus? Why would he use this term (Compare Hebrews 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 59:16-17; Romans 10:4; 1 Peter 3:18)?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 John 1:2 and Isaiah 59:16-17. Discuss how Jesus is “the righteous one” and why he is the only one who can provide salvation. Talk about *how* righteous *He* is and what this means for believers who sin. What does 1 Corinthians 5:21 tell us about our righteousness and how we became righteous? Spend time thanking God for the gift of righteousness that belongs to every believer.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:2.** What is *propitiation*? What is John referring to (1 John 4:10)?
- (b) How did he become the propitiation for us (Romans 3:25; 1 Peter 2:24)? If he is the propitiation, what does this mean concerning our sins?
- (c) Whose sins is Jesus the propitiation for? Consider these verses as well: John 1:29; 4:42; 11:51-52; and 12:47.
- (d) How should we understand this? How should this give believers encouragement *when they sin*?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 John 1:1-2. How many sins did Jesus die for? Is it possible that there would ever be more sins to be paid for than there is enough righteousness in Jesus? Talk together about why Jesus’ death is payment enough for all of the sins of the world and what that means when we as believers sin today? Take time to silently confess any sins you have committed and pray thanking God for the forgiveness and cleansing we have in Christ (1 John 1:9).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:3-5.** Take time to read through 1 John and make a list of all the times John says “we know.” What are the things we can be confident of as believers?
- (b) What is one indication that we know we know Him? What did Jesus tell his disciples in John 14:15; 14:21; 15:10, and 15:14?
- (c) Does this mean that Christians do not sin? Explain this in light of what we have learned so far in 1 John.
- (d) What situation is John warning about in verse 4? How do we know that he is not expecting believers to be perfect in keeping His commandments (1 John 1:8-10)?
- (e) What does Psalm 119:2, 9-11 tell us? How does keeping His Word affect our love according to 1 John 2:5? What does the word “perfected” mean here?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 1:3-5 and Psalm 119:2-11. Talk about why Christians live in obedience. What happens to them when they do not obey? How does obedience help us to have assurance of salvation? How does knowing God’s Word help us to live in obedience? What happens when believers fail to obey? Pray that you might have a hunger to know and live according to God’s Word.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:6 and John 15:1-8.** What does it mean to “abide in him?” What did Jesus tell his disciples in John 15:3? Does abiding *make* a person a believer?
- (b) What does abiding do for a believer according to John 15:1-8? What happens when a person does not abide? Does he lose his salvation or something else?
- (c) How can we “walk as he walked” (John 13:17; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21)?
- (d) Read Ephesians 5:1-2. What is walking synonymous with? In this verse, what motivates us to “walk” like this? How does this explain 1 John 2:1-2?
- (e) How does “walking” affect our fellowship with God (1 John 1:7)? What is the *continual experience* of the one that *walks* with God?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 2:6 and John 15:1-8. Talk about what “abiding in Christ” and “walking as he walked” means. How can we do this? What happens when believers do not do this? Spend time in praying just praising Jesus for His life, His death, His resurrection and His presence in the lives of believers. Pray that each of you might abide and walk in Him today.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read the passage again together. Why are believers forgiven? Does this make us want to sin more or want to be more holy? Talk about how a right understanding of forgiveness motivates and encourages believers. Close by praying for someone who has not received the gift of forgiveness offered because of Jesus’ death. Pray for your church service tomorrow, that someone might hear this good news and be led to trust Christ.

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The Dynamics of Forgiveness

“And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ the righteous one.”