

# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Week 1** Reality Check  
*February 28, 2021*

**Week 2** Get Real  
*March 7, 2021*

**Week 3** How to Know That You Know Him  
*March 14, 2021*

**Week 4** God is Faithful to Forgive  
*March 21, 2021*

**Week 5** Love Regardless  
*March 28, 2021*

**Week 6** Spiritual Maturity  
*April 11, 2021*

**Week 7** Loving the World, Avoiding False Teaching  
*April 18, 2021*

**Week 8** The Father's Love  
*April 25, 2021*

**Week 9** The Power of Love  
*May 2, 2021*

**Week 10** Giving our Love Away  
*May 9, 2021*

**Week 11** Belief and Behavior  
*June 6, 2021*

**Week 12** Prayer  
*June 13, 2021*



# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Reality Check*

*Week 1: February 28, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your favorite fairy tale or science fiction story growing up?

**Read 1 [John 1:1-4](#)**

2. Who was in the beginning? (v. 1)

*See also [Genesis 1:1](#), and the gospel of John in [John 1:1-2](#)*

3. What contact did John and the other believers have with the Word of Life? How many different senses are listed here? (v. 1)

4. What does the experience that John and the other believers had with the "Word of life" reveal about Jesus? What does it reveal about John?

5. What was being proclaimed by this community of believers? (v. 2)

6. Where had the eternal life been, and to whom had it appeared? (v. 2)

7. Why were John and his fellow believers telling others about Christ? (v. 3)

8. How would you define the word fellowship?

9. What makes it possible to have fellowship with God?

*See [John 1:12-13](#); [John 14:6,15,23-24](#); [John 15:4-5](#); [John 17:20-21](#)*

10. How does our fellowship with God affect our fellowship with other believers?

11. Why did John write this letter? (vv. 3-4)

12. John speaks of joy in verse 4; in what ways have you recently experienced joy in the Lord?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Get Real*

*Week 2: March 7, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 1:5-2:2](#)

1. As a child, were you afraid of the dark? If so, what brought you comfort when you were afraid?
2. What message is John declaring? (v. 1:5)
3. What does it mean that "God is Light?" How is this similar to what John wrote in the Gospel of [John 1:1-9](#)?
4. What inconsistency did John address? (v. 1:6)
5. What does it mean to walk in darkness?
6. What are the results from "walking in the light"? (v. 1:7)
7. How were some apparently deceiving themselves? (v. 1:8)
8. Why would someone think that they have no sin or that their sin is not serious?
9. What does John tell us we should do with our sin in 1 John 1:9? What does God then do with our sin?
10. What would you tell someone who sees 1 John 1:9 as a "license to sin?"
11. In what way can a person make God out to be a liar? (v. 1:10)

12. Why did John write this letter? (v. 2:1) See also [1 John 1:3-4](#)
13. For whom is Jesus an atoning sacrifice? (v. 2:2) Does this verse imply that everyone is then universally saved? See [Matthew 25:41-46](#); [Mark 9:47-48](#); [2 Thess. 1:9](#), [Hebrews 10:26-27](#), [Revelation 21:8](#), [John 3:16-18](#).
14. What does the word "Advocate" mean? In what way is Jesus our advocate? See [1 Timothy 2:5](#) for a comparable thought.
15. How would you go about giving counsel to someone who wants to suppress or hide their sin?

***If appropriate, can you share of a time that you brought your sins into the light and experienced God's cleansing power.***

Click below to add personal notes.

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*How to Know That You Know Him*  
*Week 3: March 14, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 2:3-6](#)

1. What test did John describe for knowing whether a person truly knows God?
2. How can you tell if your relationship with God is real or fake?
3. What do you see here about the relationship between the words that we say and our actions?
4. In the English Standard Version Bible the words, "in Him" are used several times in these verses, what does it mean to be "in Him?"
5. What does it mean to abide in Him?

Read [John 15:4-10](#)

6. How much can we do apart from Jesus? How is it that Jesus can make this claim? See [Acts 17:24-28](#), [Colossians 1:17](#)
7. What does it mean to walk as He walked in 1 John 2:6?
8. How did Jesus walk; i.e. what actions did He take?
9. Who was Jesus obeying as He walked the earth?  
See [John 4:34; 6:38; 8:29; 9:4](#)

10. Why is the word "walk" used here? What does it convey?

11. Very practically, how could you walk more closely with Christ and carry out His commands this week?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*God is Faithful to Forgive*  
*Week 4: March 21, 2021*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us  
of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

## **Read [1 John 1:1-10](#)**

After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden they hid themselves from God. This is still our tendency today. When we sin we have a tendency to run and hide from God. Because of our feelings of shame we try to conceal ourselves in the darkness and stay out of the light. John wants us to avoid this pattern of behavior. John recognizes that genuine worship does not mean that we will live lives of moral perfection. We will all struggle with sin, and John wants us to be honest about our struggles. At the same time, he wants us to recognize that God's forgiveness is available to us. We might not feel like stepping into the light and letting God see everything in our hearts, but as we worship him (as imperfect as we are) God's forgiveness overwhelms all of the faults we expose to him. His forgiveness isn't based on how pure we are: it is based on how pure Jesus is. Furthermore, we must remember that according to this passage there is a very real danger when we do not repent: we make ourselves unable to be homes for the word of God, the gospel! ("If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.") As we spend focused time in prayer it is important that we take time to confess our sins before the Lord and claim the forgiveness he offers.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Can you relate to Adam and Eve when they hid from God after they sinned? When you sin do you struggle with coming back to God? How do you feel about your relationship with God after experiencing forgiveness?

2. When you think about the word forgiveness what ideas and Bible stories come to mind? Do you tend to focus on forgiveness relative to your relationship with God or your relationships with other people?
3. According to our passage what is the connection between forgiveness and purity before God? As you think about the word purity, do you tend to focus on the goal of a pure life or the sin which gets in the way of a pure life? If someone you cared about deeply came to you and asked for your help in growing in their purity (or holiness) what would you recommend they do? Did any particular verse in the passage you read stand out to you?
4. God's forgiveness is available to each of us as we seek to be pure. In verse 5 John makes it clear that Jesus came to take away our sins, but in the next verse he says that no one who lives in Jesus continues to sin. How do you reconcile these two verses in light of our own experience that we continue to struggle with sin even after we give our lives to Jesus? What are the implications of what you believe?
5. In his sermon, Pastor Andy talked about the idea that while confession depends on us (in the beginning of the verse), everything else (being forgiven and purified of all unrighteousness) depends on God? This means that even if we don't feel worthy to ask for forgiveness, we should trust that God is the one who will take care of things. What does 1 John 1:9 mean to you?
6. This final question, is for personal application (not necessarily for group sharing). In 1 John 2:28 John challenges the believers to be pure so that when Jesus returns they will be "confident and unashamed". In what areas of your life do you need to ask for forgiveness and make changes so that you will be "unashamed" when Jesus returns? Commit to praying about this area during the coming week.

**Share prayer requests and pray.**



Click below to add personal notes.

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Love Regardless*  
*Week 5: March 28, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 2:7-11](#)

1. Why do you suppose John calls his readers "beloved"? Briefly scan 1 John, how many times do you find the word, "Beloved?"
2. What other term has John used in this letter to address his readers?  
See [1 John 2:1; 3:7](#)
3. What do these terms show about how he feels about his readers?
4. While John does not say what the actual commandment that he is referring to, based on the overall content of 1 John, what do you think that command is?

Interestingly, John refers to the command in his second letter.  
See [2 John 1:5-6](#)

5. In what way is it an old command?  
See [Deuteronomy 6:5](#) and [Matthew 22:37-39](#)
6. In what way is it a new command? Read [John 13:34](#)
7. Considering this was written more than 1900 years ago and the darkness still seems as strong as ever, how can John say the "darkness is passing away" (v. 8)? For some context see [1 John 2:17](#)
8. What is the test mentioned for knowing if you are in the darkness or the light?

9. Who is your brother?

10. What can we see from these verses about the effects of living in the darkness?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Spiritual Maturity  
Week 6: April 11, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 2:12-14](#)

1. What three categories did John give to his readers? (vv. 12-14)
2. Why did John write to "children"? (vv. 12-13)
3. Why did John write to "the fathers"? (vv. 13-14)
4. Why did John write to "the young men"? (vv. 13-14)
5. How can we overcome the evil one? See [Ephesians 6:10-18](#), [Luke 4:1-13](#), [1 John 5:4-5](#), [Revelation 12:10-11](#)
6. How should this knowledge effect how you live?
7. Where would you categorize yourself in your faith: child, young man, or father?

Read [Ephesians 4:11-15](#) and [Philippians 3:12-14](#)

8. What do these passages have to say about being content with where we are spiritually and progressing in our maturity?
9. What spiritual disciplines do you need to spend time developing in your life in order to continue progressing in your spiritual maturity?

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Loving the World, Avoiding False Teaching  
Week 7: April 18, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 2:15-29](#)

1. What are we not to love and why? (vv. 15,17)
2. The biblical concept of "world" falls into many categories: in general, we can understand them as the physical/human world (the universe where we live), the moral world (a corrupt environment where men are hostile to God), and the temporal and coming world (ages that are passing away and an age yet to come). Which of these categories (Physical, Moral, or Temporal) does John use? See [John 1:10,29](#); [John 3:16](#), [1 John 4:9,14](#).
3. Why can we not love this world and God?
4. In what ways does the world influence people away from Christ and the love of God in our culture?
5. What does John call people who deny Christ? (v. 22) How can we reconcile this strong word "liar" with modern day culture, which tells us to be tolerant and understanding of people with other beliefs?
6. What things did John show to be the saints' defense against the spirit of anti-Christ? (vv. 26-29)
7. How can we know the truth?
8. What should you do if you hear a pastor/preacher/brother/sister sharing something that doesn't sound quite right?



9. What reason does verse 28 give for why we should maintain a close relationship to Christ?
10. Where does the love for the world tend to compete with your love for God in your own life (money, time, priorities, relationships, ambition, etc.)?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*The Father's Love  
Week 8: April 25, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 3:1-10](#)

1. Can you give some examples in Scripture of how God showed love to the believers? (v. 1)
2. In what ways has God shown love to you?
3. What was required of God in order for Him to call us the children of God? (v.1)
4. What does it mean that the world does not know us?
5. How can we become children of God?
6. Why was the Son of God manifested? (vv. 5,8)
7. Does verse 6 mean that a believer will never sin? (See 1 John 2:1). What is John trying to say then in verse 6?
8. What is a test of whether you are a child of God or a child of the devil? (v. 10)
9. What reasons are given for why practicing sin is incompatible with a relationship to God?

10. What should our view of sin be?

11. Read [Romans 3:23](#). We have all sinned. When you miss the mark and sin, what have you found helpful in making it right and having your fellowship with the Lord restored?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*The Power of Love*  
*Week 9: May 2, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 3:11-24](#)

1. How do we know we have passed from death to life? (v. 14)

Read [Genesis 4:1-8](#)

2. Why did Cain murder his brother? (v. 12)

3. What does John call a person who hates his brother? (v. 15)

See also [Matthew 5:21-24](#)

4. How do we know love? (v. 16)

5. How should we love? (vv. 17-18)

6. What stands out to you about the love described in verses 16-18?

**Choose a scripture verse from the following list for each person in your group, and read what the Bible says about loving one another.**

[Matthew 5:43-48](#)

[Romans 13:8](#)

[Luke 6:35](#)

[1 Corinthians 13:3-7](#)

[John 13:34-35](#)

[1 Peter 4:8](#)

[John 15:12](#)

[1 John 4:7-11](#)

[Romans 12:10](#)

[1 John 4:20-22](#)

7. What is the result of not being condemned by one's heart? (vv. 21-22)

8. What is God's command in verse 23 and what is the result of obeying God's command in verse 24?
9. Based on 1 John 3:23-34, is the Christian life complicated? But is it difficult? Why?
10. If you were to practice Christ-like love this week to those around you how would you show it in your family? Church? Work? Community? Toward those who do not like you?

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Giving Our Love Away*  
*Week 10: May 9, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Read [1 John 4:1-6](#)

1. How can we tell if someone is teaching the truth or a lie (in other words if it is the Holy Spirit speaking through them or a demonic spirit)?
2. What does it mean to overcome? (vv. 4-6)
3. Knowing that the Holy Spirit is in us, how does this impact your life?

### Read [1 John 4:7-14](#)

4. What is the relationship between loving and knowing God? (vv. 7-8)
5. What is the result of loving one another? (v. 12)
6. How can we love others when sometimes it is so hard?
7. How should knowing that God took the initiative to love us, affect our attitude?

### Read [1 John 4:15-21](#)

8. What happens when we acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God? (v. 15)

9. What does perfect love do? Why? (v. 18)

10. What would a person abiding in love look like?

11. How can we demonstrate our love for God?

12. What are some practical ways you can show love for others this week?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Belief and Behavior*  
*Week 11: June 6, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 5:1-5](#)

1. Who is born of God?
2. How can you tell if you are loving others?
3. How are belief, love, obedience and life interconnected in this section?
4. Using these four key concepts how would you explain to someone what being a Christian is all about?
5. What is said about God's commandments? (v. 3)
6. What is the victory that enables us to overcome the world? (v. 4)
7. Considering the fact that the world has never been primarily Christian and that even now it seems to be growing more sinful, how can this verse be understood?

Read [1 John 5:6-12](#)

8. What men testified about Christ? Why would we say that their witness is reliable?
9. In verses 7-8 what three witness of Jesus? *For added context see [John 1:29-30](#); [John 12:23-33](#); [John 15:26](#)*



10. What does it mean that the one who believes in Christ has the testimony in his heart? (v. 10)

11. What has convinced you that true life is found in Jesus?

12. In what ways can you offer testimony to others about who Jesus is?

**Click below to add personal notes.**

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# A B I D E

*a series on 1 John*

*Prayer*

*Week 12: June 13, 2021*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read [1 John 5:13-15](#)

1. For what purpose did John write this epistle? (v. 13)
2. How or when can we be confident that God will answer our prayers? (vv.14-15) See also [Romans 8:26-27](#)
3. Is John saying that we get everything we ask for? See also [James 4:3](#)
4. What would you say if someone says to you, "If God is going to do whatever He wants anyway, what is the point of praying then?"
5. What do these verses teach us about our attitude in prayer?
6. How is your prayer life? How can you improve your prayer life?

Read [1 John 5:16-21](#)

7. What two types of sin are mentioned? (vv. 16-17)
8. What does John mean by sin that leads to death? See also [Matthew 12:31-32](#); [Mark 3:28-29](#); [Hebrews 10:26-31](#)
9. Why is the whole world under Satan? (v. 19)

10. What was one purpose of Jesus' coming? (v. 20)

11. As we close out our study, share with the group one or two of your favorite verses or teachings from the book of 1 John.

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*Abide* Small Group Guide  
2021 Brookville Road Community Church

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