

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

**Dig Deeper Study Tools**

- Author's Purpose
- Context
- Structure
- Linking Words
- Parallels
- Narrator's Comment
- Vocabulary
- Translations
- Tone and Feel
- Repetition
- Quotation/Allusion
- Genre
- Copycat
- Bible Timeline
- "Who am I"
- "So What"

## 1 John—Assured in Christ

**Sermon Series**

02, 09 February 2025 1 Jn 1:1-10; 2:1-14

Walk in the Light

16, 23 February 2025 1 Jn 2:15-29; 3:1-10

Abide in Christ

## Background

- 1 John is likely a circulated sermon from the Apostle John, the beloved disciple, an eyewitness of Christ
- Written in late AD 80s to 90s to combat false teachings such as
  - Gnosticism: Believe in a divine spark awakened through secret knowledge to escape the material world, deemed as evil, to unite with the divine.
  - Docetism: A sub-set of Gnosticism. Believe Jesus didn't have a true but a phantom body. His crucifixion was thus an illusion.
- Written with an end-time perspective echoing the book of Revelation: antichrists are active throughout, though the ruler of this world has already been judged.
- It's a call to godly and right living undergirded by Christ's atoning work.

## Key Message: Life Comes from God through Jesus

### *John's subject is Christ Jesus*

- Through Jesus, God is revealed, and eternal life comes to us in the flesh.
- Eternal life is the life with the Father, and in the Son—manifested in Jesus, now bestowed on believers.
- This eternal life is the fellowship and communion we now have with the Father and the Son, through the Spirit who makes us God's children
- The evidence of this new life that proceeds from God, shows up in God's character in a believer
- Because to believe is to walk in God's light and love
- The alternative is to lie—to practise not the truth but walk in darkness and sin.

## Broad Outline of the Epistle of 1 John:

### Outline Aligned to the Pulpit Series

2 Feb	Walk in the light (1:1-10)	}	<b>BFA FEB Studies 1 &amp; 2</b>
9 Feb	Keep His Commandment (2:1-14)		
16 Feb	Abide in Christ (2:15-29)		
23 Feb	Keep Away from Sin (3:1-10)		
2 Mar	Love in Deeds and Truth (3:11-24)	}	<b>BFA MAR Studies 3 &amp; 4</b>
9 Mar	Test the Spirits (4:1-6)		
16 Mar	Love One Another (4:7-19)		
23 Mar	Believe Jesus Is the Son (5: 1-12)		
30 Mar	Know Him Who Is True (5:13-21)		

## **Discipleship Themes: Assured in Christ**

- Assurance of Walking in God's Light
- Assurance of Forgiveness
- Assurance of Abiding in Christ
- Assurance of Discerning the Truth from Lies
- Assurance of God's Love
- Assurance of Victory over Sin
- Assurance of Answered Prayer
- Assurance of Eternal Life in the Son

**02, 09 February 2025**

**Study 1: Walk in the Light**

**1 John 1:1-10; 2:1-14**

---

**PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ, MARK, AND REFLECT**

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

**1** What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and our hands have touched, concerning the word of life—2 and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and announce to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was revealed to us—3 what we have seen and heard, we announce to you also, in order that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write, in order that our joy may be complete.

5 And this is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light and there is no darkness in him at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we do not have sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, so that he will forgive us our\* sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

*Notes and Questions*

**2** My little children, I am writing these things to you in order that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one, 2 and he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 The one who says “I have come to know him,” and does not keep his

*Notes and Questions*

commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in this person. 5 But whoever keeps his word, truly in this person the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in him. 6 The one who says that he resides in him ought also to walk just as that one walked.

7 Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the message which you have heard. 8 Again, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light already is shining. 9 The one who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother resides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you on account of his name. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you have known the One who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one. 14 I have written to you, children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known the One who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God resides in you, and you have conquered the evil one.

## **PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK**

What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

---

## **GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY**

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

## **GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER**

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

## GROUP: STUDY 1

Read 1 John 1:1-10 and 2:1-14

### OBSERVATION



**What do you notice as you read this passage?**

1. What is the message John is announcing? (1:1-3)
  
2. What is the purpose of John's message? (1:4)
  
3. What has God provided for us to walk in the light and have fellowship with Him and His people? (1:5-10, 2:1-2)
  
4. How may we know that we truly know God and are walking in His light? (2:3-11)
  
5. See 2:12-14, how did John describe
  - i. The children:
  
  - ii. The fathers:
  
  - iii. The young men:

### Comments

The author repeatedly testified that he was an eyewitness of the Lord Jesus' life and ministry. The similarity of 1 John's introduction to that of the Gospel of John stating that Jesus was from the beginning, the Word who was with the Father, who came to give us eternal life, and make us God's children, points strongly to the Apostle John as their common author.

Above all others, the beloved disciple John was familiar with Jesus. He had leaned on Jesus' bosom, seen his master's intense sufferings on the cross, and His glorious resurrection. He would never forget the earthly yet divine image of his Lord and friend. He writes to show us how we too can embrace this privileged relationship with God through Jesus.

## INTERPRETATION



**What is the meaning and significance of your observations?**

6. What is this joy that John wants believers to have in 1:4? How can John's message bring us this true joy?
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is God just when He forgives the sins of a believer upon his/her confession? What happens to a believer upon his/her confession?
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why is it important for us to keep God's commandment by loving our brothers and sisters in Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
9. Who do you think the children, fathers, and young men represent in 2:12-14? Which category among them relates best to your Christian experience? What do you think is John saying to us through those descriptions?

### **BIG IDEA**



What is the main message of the passage?

(Sum up the main idea and supporting ideas)



## APPLICATION



**Why did the Holy Spirit give us this text?**

10. How does this text change your understanding of what true joy is?

11. What can you do to deepen your joy in this family of God?

## GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

Share how this discipleship group can be a place for you to experience more deeply the truth you've learned in today's texts.

**16, 23 February 2025**  
**Study 2: Abide in Jesus**  
**1 John 2:15-29; 3:1-10**

---

**PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ, MARK, AND REFLECT**

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

**2**:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 16 because everything that is in the world—the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance of material possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and its desire, but the one who does the will of God remains [forever].

18 Children, it is the last hour, and just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us. But they went out\*, in order that it might be shown that all of them are not of us.

20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because every lie is not of the truth. 22 Who is the liar except the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This person is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, what you have heard from the beginning must remain in you. If what you have heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise which he himself promised us: eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you concerning the ones who are trying to deceive you.

27 And as for you, the anointing which you received from him remains in you, and you do not have need that anyone

*Notes and Questions*

teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you reside in him.

28 And now, little children, remain in him, so that whenever he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness has been fathered by him.

**3** See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called children of God, and we are! Because of this the world does not know us: because it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever he is revealed we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as that one is pure.

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that that one was revealed in order that he might take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 Everyone who resides in him does not sin. Everyone who sins has neither seen him nor known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you: the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as that one is righteous. 8 The one who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this reason the Son of God was revealed: in order to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Everyone who is fathered by God does not practice sin, because his seed resides in him, and he is not able to sin, because he has been fathered by God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are evident: everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, namely, the one who does not love his brother.

## **PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK**

How was your walk with God in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

---

## **GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY**

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

## **GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER**

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

## GROUP: STUDY 2

1 John 2:15-29; 3:1-10

### OBSERVATION



**What do you notice as you read this passage?**

1. What is wrong with loving the world? 2:15-17
2. What did John tell us about the anti-Christ in 2:18-23? Who is the anti-Christ (2:22)?
3. Highlight the most repeated *verb* in 2:17-29. What was John's concern?
4. What distinguishes God's children from Satan's children? (3:1-10)

### INTERPRETATION



**What is the meaning and significance of your observations?**

5. Why did John want believers to abide in Christ?

### Comments

This text raises three possible sets of questions:

- i. Who is the anti-Christ?

The answer can be deduced from the passage given in Question 2.

- ii. Can a believer stop sinning? Does sin disqualify one as a true believer?

To answer the above questions, see 1:8-10.

Note also that the sin here should be read in the context of the sins of the false teachers, who left the church and continued to propagate lies about who Jesus is and His work on the cross. It also points to an unrepentance unrighteous life, justified by their false teachings.

- iii. What is the Holy Spirit's anointing? Who are the anointed? Can the Holy Spirit's anointing replace our need for human teachers?

John's statement here must be read again in the context of the false teachings that denied

6. Why is being God's children such a great privilege?  
(3:1-3)
  
7. How did Jesus' coming destroy the work of Satan?  
(3:8)
  
8. Why did John say in 3:6-9 that believers will not sin?

Christ's true human body. True believers are sealed and indwelled(anointed) by the Holy Spirit. They love the Lord and will not accept such blatant lies and distortion of who Jesus is. They have been taught by God and His word through His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit does not replace our need for teachers. Rather, the Holy Spirit works in us, to teach us who Jesus is through good teachings from the word. See 2:13,14, 3:21. God children know God because they have already been rightly taught about Him from His word that brought about their conversion at the beginning of their Christian life, without which they would not be Christians.



### **BIG IDEA**

**What is the main message of the passage?**

(Sum up the main idea and supporting ideas)



### **APPLICATION**

**Why do you think the Holy Spirit gave us this text?**

9. How has this text cautioned you against Satan’s lies and our sinful inclination to love the world more than God?

10. How may you grow in the joy and assurance that you are a child of God?

11. What can help us remain deeply connected to Christ?

### **GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS**

How may this discipleship group be a place to nurture faith and hope in Christ, while reaching out to those you know who are struggling in their faith?