

Life Group Guide

1 John 3:1-10

Connect: 30-45 mins Connecting.

Consider sharing a meal together, discussing the highs/lowes of the week, or any celebrations/hard things that happened last week, follow up from prayer requests or confessions last week.

Discuss: Scripture/Sermon Discussion

1. Reread this week's passage 1 John 3:1-10. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What stood out? What was challenging? What was comforting?
2. The first verse uses the name "Father" to refer to God and His type of love toward us, His children. Why would this parent/child relationship be an appropriate illustration of God's love?
3. What emotions or thoughts stir in you as you think of God as Father? Is this comforting or difficult to think of God as Father? Share the ways knowing God as Father is either comforting/difficult.
4. In what ways does His perfect Fatherly love compare/contrast to the imperfect love of your earthly father? Why is this significant in our relationship with God?
5. As you consider the phrase "whoever makes a practice of sinning", discuss what John is saying (and not saying) here about believers and their struggle with sin. How can we have assurance that we are believers even when we have ongoing sin in our lives?
6. Do you have an ongoing or persistent sin that you battle with? A few weeks ago we spent some time in confession, is there anything that came up this week you need to confess? In what ways can you experience freedom through the gospel for this persistent sin?
7. According to 1 John 3:9, what explanation and hope do we have in regards to the ongoing battle with sin?
8. Look at 1 John 3:9-10, John mentions the idea of being born of God, or being born into his family. What does it mean to then represent His likeness to the world despite sin in our lives?

Closing Practice: Embracing the Gospel

Spend some time thinking about verses that come to mind that help remind you of your identity in Christ and that you are a child of God. Have group members read the passages that come to mind, or declare a few of these over the group:

Which of these is most meaningful to you? Which do you struggle most to believe? Spend a few minutes praying in groups of 2-3 for one another in response to the verses read aloud.

My Identity In Christ

In Christ ...

I am Forgiven

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us
(Psalm 103:11-12)

I am Reconciled with God

All this is a from God who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation
(2 Corinthians 5:18)

I am Rescued

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!
(Romans 7:24-25)

I am Redeemed

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24)

I am Righteous

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:11)

I am Bought with a Price

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, who you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

I am Known by God

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27)

I am Chosen

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who you are on the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 14:2)



I am Justified Before God

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)

I am Saved

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9-10)

I am Alive

But because of His great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-5)

I am Free

So if the son sets you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36)

I am Secure

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken (Psalm 16:8)

I am an Heir

And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him (Romans 8:17)

I am a New Creature

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am Born of God

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses (Colossians 2:13)

I am Adopted by God

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

I am a Child of the Promise

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:28-29)

I am Jesus' Friend

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you (John 15:15)

I am a Citizen of Heaven

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20)

I am a Member of Christ's Body

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:27)

I am a Saint

So then you are no longer stranger and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and the members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19)

I am Sealed

And who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee (2 Corinthians 1:21)

I am Loved

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children (Ephesians 5:1)

I am Delighted in

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing (Zephaniah 3:17)

I am Co-Laborer

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9)

I am Set Apart

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of the darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)