

Life Group Guide

1 John 2:15-29

Leader Equipping:

Theological Triage: [1st, 2nd, 3rd Tier Theological Issues](#)

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 2:3-15-29. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What stood out? What was challenging? What was comforting?
2. As you look at 1 John 2:15-17, what 3 areas of loving the world are mentioned? Which of those do you most struggle with? How does the gospel help you find freedom in these areas?
3. Does anyone have a story of overcoming (or currently recovering) one of these areas through God's redemption and grace?
4. The next few verses (1 John 2:18-29) mention antichrists/false teachers. What comes to mind when you think of false teaching?
5. What are some of the things (maybe even subtly) are you being influenced by that might lure you away from truth? (What are you watching, listening to, reading, etc.)
6. One of the remedies mentioned to stand against false teaching is His Spirit in 1 John 2 verse 20 and 27. With the anointing we have received, how does scripture say the Holy Spirit help us?
7. The second remedy for building discernment is to remain in him or abide (verses 24 and 27). What are some ways in which you can remain in Him just as he remains in you? (Notice the relational aspect of being with God)
8. We live in a cancel culture. Understanding the difference between false teaching (intentionally misleading or teaching heresy) and different teaching (things we can remain in fellowship but disagree) is essential to building unity in the faith and keeping guard against false teaching. What are some of the essential vs. non-essential elements of our faith? (For more see [Theological Triage: 1st Tier, 2nd Tier, 3rd Tier issues](#). Things we die for vs. things we divide for or debate for).

Closing Practice: Embracing the Gospel

The Nicene Creed lists the essentials of the faith, quite literally things people died for to determine essential to our faith. Consider closing your time together reading the creed, outloud, as a group. (See Next Page)

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

1 John 2:3-14

Leader Equipping: A good refresher for this week as we cover verses on loving or hating our brother would be to watch Dave Obwald's conflict Resolution training. We will cover in group discussion some of the reasons it's hard to move toward others and how we can walk in the light in a more Christlike way when it comes to hard relationships.

Watch: [Conflict Resolution Training](#)

Resource: [Conflict Field Guide](#)

Connect: 30-45 mins Connecting.

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

Discuss: 30-45 mins Scripture/Sermon Discussion

9. Reread this week's passage 1 John 2:3-14. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes.
10. What stood out to you in this week's passage or message? Anything comforting? Challenging? Surprising?
11. As you look at verse 6 "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.", what does it mean to walk like Jesus? In what ways are you hoping to grow to walk more like Him?
12. Have you ever doubted the validity of your faith (that you are saved)? According to the sermon passage, what verifications affirm you have eternal life and therefore, validate your faith?
13. Summarize 1 John 2:9-10. Read Matthew 5:21-26. What does this passage teach us about the posture of our hearts toward others and how that affects our relationship with God?
14. Is there anyone you're in conflict with or struggling to love well right now? What feels hard when you think about moving toward that person? In what ways can you walk in light and love toward that person?

Foundational Practice: Experiencing Ongoing Freedom

Break into groups of 2-3 to pray for what you shared in response to question #5. If there are people you are in conflict with or struggling to love, confess that to God and one another, seek wisdom in prayer with those in your life group.

If time allows and it fits, you can consider watching the Conflict Resolution training from above as a group to resource you.

1 John 1:1-2:2

Leader Equipping: This week we cover the topic of confession. We want to handle confession with care, please listen to this Active Listening training we recorded prior to your life group as a refresher on how to cultivate an environment of care as members in our groups share: [Active Listening Training](#)

Connect: 30-45 mins Connecting.

Consider sharing a meal together, discussing the highs/lows of the week, or any celebrations/hard things that happened last week.

Discuss: 30-45 mins Scripture/Sermon Discussion

Intro Question: Last week our closing challenge was to read through the book of 1 John from start to finish. Did anyone read through the book of 1 John? Anything stand out to you? Observations? Questions?

1. Read this week's passage 1 John 1:1-2:2. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes.
2. What stood out to you from this week's passage or sermon?
3. Think about light, darkness, and fellowship described in 1 John 1:5-10. What keeps us from having deep, authentic fellowship with our fellow Christians? Why do we settle for surface relationships?
4. What attitudes or actions would help us move beyond surface relationships to authentic Christian fellowship? What are some ways that we can practice this as a group this semester?
5. If God already knows our sins, why is confession necessary?
6. What are some reasons we are slow to confess our sins to God? To each other?
7. What lies do we tell ourselves when we avoid confessing our offenses?
8. How does knowing we have Jesus as our advocate and propitiation help us be more vulnerable and courageous to confess our sins to one another?

Practice: 30-45 minutes (Foundational Practice/Experience)

Foundational practice: Experiencing Ongoing Freedom (1 John 1:6-10). We experience ongoing freedom through confession, repentance, and forgiveness. As we walk in the light together, we experience true freedom and fellowship.

As a group, we not only want to discuss what might keep us from confession or why it's good for us, but we want to practice it as a regular rhythm in our life groups. Let's take some time to create space to practice confession to one another.

- Spend a few minutes in prayer quietly in Psalm 139:23-24.
- **Is there anything that came up this week that you want to confess today?** Create space for confession and listening well, caring for one another as we practice walking in the light.

- Read Psalm 32:3-7 to close the time of confession. Spend time in prayer to thank God for the gospel and Jesus who covers our sin.

123 John: Overview

1. Check in/intro: If you have any new members in your group, spend some time briefly introducing yourselves (name, season of life, hobbies, favorite snack, etc.). If your group is returning and knows one another, update on highs and lows since you last met. How were the holidays? Any life updates?
2. As we enter a new semester (and a new year!), what are your hopes for this semester? What are some regular habits/rhythms you can set in place to abide in Christ or grow deeper with him this year? (If you want a deeper resource for this, see the [Rule of Life Resource here.](#))
3. What are some of the reasons you might struggle to spend time with God over these next few weeks. How can we as a group pray for you in that?
4. Use this time as a group to reset commitments and expectations. Read the following below and/or use the [LG Commitment & Covenant](#) for members to reset expectations for the new semester!

LG Commitment: [Click Here](#)

LG Expectations

This semester we are entering into a very unique process of life with God - together. This journey will require a safe environment where individuals can be open and honest. Individuals may share things they have never shared before. These intimate moments need to be received without judgment or condemnation. We are on a journey with God together. We are not here to ‘fix’ one another but to be present with each other - in love. We want to encourage openness, vulnerability, honesty, and intimacy together. This group dynamic will require a few critical components:

Guard Against Gossip - Guarding against gossip creates a safe environment for sharing.

Keep it about self - Focus sharing what God is teaching you in this season and how you can apply it to your life.

Keep it clean - Honor God while sharing. Please avoid profanity.

Keep it brief - Please limit your sharing a few minutes so everyone in the group will have time to share.

Be consistent - Consistent attendance fosters trust. Your presence is necessary for the group environment to be honest and intimate. If you cannot attend, please inform your leader.

Be Honest - Your honesty is essential regardless of your position in Christ or state of your spiritual life. As each individual is open and honest, the group can deepen together.

Keep it confidential - every participant is to agree to confidentiality within the group. This shared confidentiality ensures the sanctity of the group - what is said stays with the group.

Does anyone have any questions about our Group Expectations?

5. What from this week’s message was impactful for you? What questions do you have about the book of 1 John? *If your group is looking for deeper study resources to do prior to lifegroup and the message, see below. Perhaps consider going through one together as a group.

Daily Homework [“Abide” by Jen Wilkin](#)

Weekly Homework [“Knowing the Bible: 123 John”](#)

Commentary: [Christ Centered Exposition 123 John](#)

Free Course: [123 John \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

6. Prayer: Pass out a note card to each life group member. Have them write down one word you can pray for them this semester. If you need to spend a few moments in quiet reflection then write it. Have them share their word and why that word, collect them as a leader at the end of the group time to pray throughout the semester.

7. Closing Practice: **Embracing the Gospel**

Consider what it means to not only embrace the gospel at a point in time, but over time in light of 1 John. What are some ways you can embrace this gospel over this semester? Spend some time this week quietly before the Lord asking how you can grow in your love and obedience.

Repetitive Reading:

Over the next week try and read 1 John from start to finish. Practice repetitive reading, if you can, read through it all daily, if not try at least once before next group time. This will help you get an overall grasp of the book and see some themes emerge.