

Life Group Guide 1 John 3:23-4:6

Connect: 30-45 min

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.

A Reminder: If you are looking for more in depth study to do during the week, before the sermon, this is a free 12 week course through 123 John:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowng-the-bible-1-3-john/#week-1-overview>

Recap: Last week Brad challenged us to search our heart and be open to the Holy Spirit in asking Him whom you might have a hard time loving. Reminder, that the definition of hating others in the context of the sermon from last week is (to disregard, to think less of, and to love less). Would anyone be willing to share if anyone came to mind?

Discuss: Scripture/Sermon Discussion (30-45 mins)

1. Reread this week's passage, 1 John 3:23-4:6. Have someone summarize the sermon in 1-2 minutes. What stood out? What was challenging? Encouraging?
2. In 1 John 4:1-3, John warns us that not every spirit is of God. This calls us to then be mindful and discern who and what influences us. How does John say we can "test" if a spirit is from God?
3. Later, in verse 4 John brings back the language of being called children of God. Because we are His children, how else does John say that we are able to "overcome" the world?
4. In verses 5 and 6 John makes a strong point about knowing and listening. Those who are of the world will speak like they are, and those who are of God will listen to godly teachers. How are we then to "know" and distinguish who is of the world and who is of God?
5. Notice in 1 John 3:23-24 how God has intentionally and relationally called us to live like His children. He said that we abide in Him by keeping His commandments (His Word), loving one another (His people), and that He abides in us because of His Spirit whom He has given us (His Spirit). How do these gifts from God help us to then combat false teachings and other things that would pull us away from living as a child of God?

Closing Challenge: Intentionally Pursuing Community

In our series of studying 1 John, John continues to use the language of being called "little children" of God. By doing so he puts emphasis on the fact that God has adopted us into His family in Christ. This means that He created us to be in community and to be able to stir one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25) and to help point each other to truth when one stumbles.

Take time this week to ask God what it means to intentionally seek out living in community as He designed. Be open to the Spirit about how you have done this well and how maybe you have been avoiding it (there is no shame, but an invitation to walk more deeply with the Holy Spirit. At the end of your time, thank Him for His loving kindness and for showing you how you are pursuing community. Share with someone you trust about how your time in prayer was.

