

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

1 JOHN

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drivetime
DEVOTIONS

1 JOHN: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions, small group study. This five-week study is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. It's usually better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. You can access this podcast study on 1 JOHN by downloading the DrivetimeDevotions app for your phone or by going to DrivetimeDevotions.com.

HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out unless you want to.

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CHECKING IN

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse (or verses) from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.

WEEK ONE: 1 John 1



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK ONE



CHECKING IN

1. If you are just starting together as a group, take time to go around the room and share your name, where you grew up, and what brought you to the group.
2. 1 John emphasizes that God is light and in Him is no darkness. What is one area of your life where you've seen God bring light recently?



KEY VERSE

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. John wrote so that his readers would have fellowship and their joy would be complete. How are fellowship and joy connected in your experience? Verses 3-4
2. What does it mean to "walk in the light" as opposed to "walking in the darkness"? Verses 5-7
3. When you sin, are you more likely to hide, rationalize, or deny it? How does 1 John challenge those responses? Verses 8-10
4. How does the promise that God is "faithful and just" to forgive us change the way you approach Him when you fail? Verse 9



LIVING ON PURPOSE

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is built on what we have in common in Christ. This week, reach out to one person in your group just to encourage them and build that connection.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Thank God that He is Light and that He invites us to walk in the light with Him. Pray for the courage to be honest about your sins and to experience His forgiveness.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK TWO: 1 John 2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK TWO



CHECKING IN

1. How did it go this past week reaching out to encourage someone in the group?
2. What is one of the most valuable lessons you've learned about walking in God's light?



KEY VERSE

"Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."

1 John 2:6 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that Jesus is both our "advocate" and our "atoning sacrifice"? Verses 1-2
2. How does John connect our love for God with our obedience to His commands? Verses 3-6
3. Why is it impossible to walk in the light while hating a brother or sister in Christ? Verses 9-11
4. How does the "world" (the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does) pull us away from the love of the Father? Verses 15-17
5. What encourages you most about the three stages of spiritual growth (children, young men, fathers) described in verses 12-14?



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship means abiding in Jesus. This week, focus not just on "trying to be like Jesus," but on drawing your life from Him each day through prayer and reading His Word.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that you would not love the world or the things of the world, but that your heart would be completely devoted to the Father.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK THREE: 1 John 3



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK THREE



CHECKING IN

1. How did focusing on "abiding in Jesus" change your perspective this past week?
2. When you think of God as your Father, what is the first thought or feeling that comes to mind?



KEY VERSE

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

1 John 3:1 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How does the hope of seeing Jesus and being like Him purify our lives today?
Verses 2-3
2. What is the difference between struggling with sin and choosing a lifestyle of continuous, unrepentant sin? Verses 4-6
3. How do our actions reveal whether we are children of God or children of the devil? Verses 7-10
4. How did Jesus demonstrate what true love looks like, and how are we called to imitate that? Verses 16-18
5. What does it mean to "set our hearts at rest in his presence" when our hearts condemn us? Verses 19-20



LIVING ON PURPOSE

MINISTRY

True love is shown in actions, not just words. Look for a practical way to lay down your life or share your resources with someone in need this week.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Thank the Father for the incredible love He has lavished on you. Ask Him to help you love others not just with words, but with actions and in truth.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FOUR: 1 John 4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK FOUR



CHECKING IN

1. How were you able to show love in action and truth this past week?
2. What is something you used to be afraid of as a child that you no longer fear today?



KEY VERSE

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment."

1 John 4:18 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to "test the spirits," and what is the ultimate test of truth according to John? Verses 1-3
2. How does knowing that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" give you courage? Verse 4
3. We are told that "God is love." What is the difference between saying "God is love" and the world's idea of love? Verses 7-10
4. How does God's perfect love drive out fear and anxiety from our lives? Verses 17-18
5. Why is it impossible to truly love God while holding onto hatred or bitterness toward another person? Verses 19-21



LIVING ON PURPOSE

WORSHIP

Worship is recognizing who God truly is. Spend time this week thanking God that He loved us first, before we ever loved Him.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray that God's perfect love would drive out the fears and anxieties in your life. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit so you can love others out of the overflow of His love.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FIVE: 1 John 5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CHECKING IN

1. How did reflecting on God's perfect love help you deal with any fears or anxieties this week?
2. What has been your biggest takeaway from our study of 1 John so far?



KEY VERSE

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

1 John 5:11-12 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How is obedience to God's commands an evidence of our love for Him, and why are His commands not burdensome? Verses 1-3
2. What does it mean to "overcome the world," and how does our faith make that possible? Verses 4-5
3. God has given testimony about His Son. Why is it so crucial that we accept God's testimony over man's? Verses 9-12
4. John writes so that we may "know" we have eternal life. How does this assurance give us confidence in our prayers? Verses 13-15
5. Review the assurances in verses 18-20. Which of these promises brings you the most comfort today?



LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM

We have the testimony that life is found in the Son. Who is one person you know who needs to hear this life-giving message? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Thank God for the assurance of eternal life. Pray with confidence for the specific needs in your group, knowing that He hears you when you ask according to His will.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

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