

STUDIES FROM

FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD JOHN

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LESSON #1 - WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD

Answer the following questions from 1 John 1:1-4.

1. Consider verse 1. What four words are used to emphasize the full knowledge of the apostles concerning the Word of life?
2. Who is the Word according to the “Gospel of John”, chapter 1, verses 1-3, 14?
3. What word is used in 1 John 1:2 (KJV, NKJV, and NASV) that is descriptive of one who has “seen and heard”?
4. How many times is the word “witnesses” used to describe the apostles in Acts, chapters 1-5? Write down the scripture references.
5. What is said of them as “witnesses” in Acts 10:39-41?
6. What were they commanded to do with that which they had witnessed, according to Acts 10:42?
7. What were John and the other apostles faithfully doing with what they had seen and heard? 1 John 1:3
8. Describe the urgency with which they viewed their task as stated in Acts 4:18-20.
9. What good things would be accomplished as a result of their message? 1 John 1:3-4
10. Implied is the fact that if one is in fellowship with the apostles, he is in fellowship with _____ .

11. It is an obvious truth that if it can be reasonably shown that one is neither mistaken nor lying as a witness, his testimony is to be accepted. Discuss the fact that the apostles were neither mistaken nor lying in their testimony concerning Jesus.

LESSON #2 - THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Answer the following questions from 1 John 1:5 – 2:6.

1. What is essential if one is to have fellowship with God? 1:5-7
2. What do YOU think is meant by the term “darkness” and “light” in this passage?
3. What is meant by the word “walk”?
4. Thought question: Using only verse 7, show that walking in the light does not mean never ever sinning.

If then, we do not live completely without sin, how can God fellowship us (from this same verse)?

5. What must we not do regarding sin, according to verses 8, 10? What should we do, according to verse 9?
6. What two things are necessary if we are to be in a state of righteousness, according to 1:9 and 3:7?
7. Consider 2:1. Does God give permits or licenses to sin?
8. **Thought question:** What comfort could be drawn from 1 John 2:1-2 by one who is striving to live without sin, but occasionally stumbles in spite of his effort?
9. Did Christ come to forgive the sins of only a few? Explain your answer.
10. What test is given in 2:3-4 that determines whether we know Him or not?
11. What test is given in 2:5-6 that determines whether we abide in Him?

LESSON 3 - MAINTAINING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Answer the following questions from 1 John 2:7-17.

1. What is essential if one is to abide in light? 2:9-10
2. Go back to 1 John 1:5-6. What is essential if one is to have fellowship with God?

So, if one is to abide in light and have fellowship with God, he must _____.

3. It seems that John assumes that the readers of this letter are also familiar with his gospel. Consider John 13:34-35. The command to love was not new (Deut. 6:4-5; Lev. 19:18). What aspect of Jesus' command in verse 34 was new?
4. **Thought question:** State some qualities seen in Jesus' love that should be true of our love.
5. John in First John is giving both warnings concerning false teaching and assurance that his readers are on the right path. Which of these two purposes do you see in 2:12-14?
6. What does verse 15 say of the person who loves the world?
7. What three aspects of the world does John specifically mention in verse 16?
8. These three are not of (from) _____, but are of (from) _____.
9. Consider Genesis 3:6. Discuss the fact that all three of these can be seen in the temptation that led to Eve's sin.
10. Why should we avoid the world, according to 1 John 2:17?

LESSON #4 - THE ANTICHRIST IS COMING

Answer the following questions from 1 John 2:18-29.

1. Who is the Antichrist, according to verse 22?
2. While these had been among the Christians at one time, what had their actions indicated? Verse 19.

Can similar situations occur today?

3. The word “us” in verse 19 obviously would include John and the other apostles. Look back at 1 John 1:1-3. If these were not “of” the apostles, they would also not be “of” _____ . Consider also 2:23.
4. Again, John assures his readers they are on the right path. Consider verses 20 and 27. What had they received to lead them into truth?
5. John, in 1:6; 2:4; 2:22; and 4:20 writes of those who are liars. List the four things that he says would make one a liar.
6. What would enable John’s readers to abide in the Son and in the Father, according to verse 24?
7. Consider verse 28. What will result if one abides in Him?

LESSON #5 - CONDUCT OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Answer the following questions from 1 John 3:1-15.

1. What great blessing is mentioned in verse 1?
2. What grows out of this blessing, according to verses 1, 12, 13?
3. What two things will be true of Christians when Christ is revealed, according to verse 2?

What responsibility grows out of this, according to verse 3?

4. What is said of sin in verse 4? Of our Lord in verse 5?
5. What is said of the person "born of God" in verses 6-9? Of the person who sins?
6. This passage is not speaking of one who serves God diligently, but is overcome by temptation, sins in a weak moment, then repents and finds forgiveness. It is speaking of one who practices sin. Discuss the difference.
7. John again seems to refer to what he has written in his gospel. Consider John 8:37-44. Had the Jews of this passage once become Abraham's descendants?

But by their actions they are showing themselves in reality to be children of _____.

Discuss the application of this passage to what is written in 1 John 3:6-9.

8. What two things are necessary to be "of God"? 3:10
9. Observe the phrase "From the beginning" used several times in First John. Where should we go in determining truth?

10. What is one indication that we have passed from death to life? 3:14

11. Compare 1 John 3:15 with Matthew 5:28. What is being emphasized in these two verses?

LESSON #6 - "WE ARE OF GOD"

Answer the following questions from 1 John 3:16 – 4:6.

1. Whose example of love should we follow, according to verse 16?
2. Consider 3:17-18. What is **not** to be characteristic of our love? How should we show our love?
3. What kind of heart should we seek for? 3:20-21
4. What enables us to have confidence when we pray? 3:22-23
5. The expression "abide (dwell) in Him" is found several times in First John. After reading the following scriptures state what is essential if we are to abide or dwell in Christ: 2:6; 3:6; 3:24; 4:16.
6. Rather than believing every teacher who comes our way, what must we do, according to 4:1?
Why?
7. John gives two bases on which his readers are to test the spirits, found in 4:2, 3,6. Name the two.
8. Throughout verses 1-6 a distinction is made between "you" and "us". To whom does each word refer?
9. What assurance does John give his readers in 4:4?

10. John makes a distinction between what is “of (from) God” and what is “of (from) the world”. These are found in 2:16; 3:10; 4:1; 4:4-7. List those things that are “of the world” and those that are “of God”.

Of (from) the world

Of (from) God

11. Consider John 17:14-16. What is said of the apostles and their relationship with the world?

LESSON #7 - "LOVE IS OF GOD"

Answer the following questions from 1 John 4:7 – 5:3.

1. What must be true of one who truly "knows God"? 4:7-8.

Other passages in First John tell what is essential to knowing God. Consider 2:3-4 and 4:6. What are two other essentials?

2. Consider 4:9-11. How has God shown His love for us?

What should be our response, according to these same verses?

3. Consider 4:12-16. What two things are essential for it to be said that we abide in God and that He abides in us?

4. What does love do for us, according to 4:17-18?

5. Where did we learn love? 4:19

6. Why is it illogical for one to say he loves God while hating his brother? 4:20

7. Consider 4:21 - 5:2. What brings one to love the children of God?

8. How do we show our love for God, according to 5:3?

9. Consider 1 John 2:3-4; 3:22; 3:24; and 5:3. List four things that show how essential it is that we keep God's commandments.

10. **Thought question:** To a person who is not a Christian, the commandments of God may appear to be very burdensome (grievous). But 1 John 5:3 says they are not burdensome. Explain why they are not burdensome to the faithful Christian.

LESSON #8 - "WE KNOW"

Answer the following questions from 1 John 5:4-21.

1. Look back at lesson #6 where we contrasted things that are "of the world" and things that are "of God". What enables Christians to overcome the world, according to 5:4-5?
2. There are three that witness (testify) concerning Jesus Christ, according to verse 8. Name the three.

These three testify that Jesus was not a mere illusion, but was truly _____.
3. Who gives even greater witness (testimony), according to verse 9?
4. What is God's testimony? 11, 12
5. We have observed several times in the study of First John that John gives both warnings and assurance. What assurances does he give in verses 13-15 that should have provided comfort for his readers?
6. For whom should one pray, according to verse 16?
7. What three things do we **know**? 5:18-20
8. Consider 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:4; and 5:18. List four things that characterize one who is born of God.
9. The book of First John has practical teaching for us in the 21st century. List some practical applications to us found in First John.

LESSON #9 – SECOND JOHN

Answer the following questions from Second John.

1. To whom is John's letter addressed?
2. Why would we conclude that this lady was very hospitable?
3. What quality is commanded in verses 4 and 5?
How does one demonstrate this quality, as taught in these same verses?
4. Of what false teaching does John warn in verse 7?
5. What is the exhortation of verse 8?
6. Would the warning of verse 9 be limited in its application to the false teachers of verse 7?
Explain.
7. In what did early converts continue, according to Acts 2:42?

Do you see a parallel in this expression and the term "doctrine of Christ" found in 2 John 9?
Explain.
8. Consider verses 10 and 11. What is the lady forbidden to do in these verses?

Why?
9. List practical lessons that can be learned from Second John.

LESSON #10 - THIRD JOHN

Answer the following questions briefly from Third John.

1. After reading this letter choose a few words that would describe Gaius.
2. To what degree does John hope that Gaius will prosper and be in health, according to verse 2? Think!

What would your physical condition be if this were true of you?

3. What had brethren testified concerning Gaius, according to verses 3 and 4?
4. Read verses 5-7. What is John encouraging Gaius to do?

Why was this particularly needful?

5. Combine 3 John, verse 8, with 2 John, verses 10 and 11. What results when we give assistance to false teachers?

When we give assistance to teachers of truth?

6. All along we hear someone described as a “Diotrephes”. What would you envision if you heard such a description?

7. Contrast Gaius’ actions toward the “brethren” with the actions of Diotrephes.

8. Did Diotrephes have the power to remove someone from the body of Christ?
Who alone adds people to the church?
Who alone removes people from the church?
What then is the meaning of “he puts them out of the church”?

9. What type of person should we imitate, according to verses 11 and 12?

Was there such a person recommended by John?

10. List practical lessons to be learned from this letter.