

**Living  
as  
the  
Beloved**

1, 2, 3 JOHN // Women's Bible Study



## 1, 2, 3 JOHN

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## **A NOTE FROM COLIE KRUEGER, *women's lead pastor***\_\_\_\_\_

Hello friends,

As I write this I am sitting at the beach, overlooking the ocean, watching the waves crash seemingly endlessly along the shore. The waves are majestic, fully alive, carrying with them the salty oxygen of life. The ocean is the truest place on earth for me to contemplate the unending and unconditional love of God. Endless blue water, so vast and beyond comprehension that my mind can't grasp it all; so it is here that I consider and ponder the infinite love of God.

In this study we are going to dive into the topic of what it looks like to live out of that endless love. When we accept Jesus into our lives, we are called God's BELOVED daughters, and that identity informs who we are and how we live. I hope that you are prepared to walk into the fullness of your faith and your God-given name as God's *beloved* child.

John was known as the disciple whom Jesus loved. He knew what it meant to be loved by God, to have his full identity in Christ, and thus the words penned in 1, 2, 3 John speak to just that. He writes to inform us and encourage us about what it means to live in the love of God.

I invite you to open your hearts to this Word, the Truth about who Jesus is and what it means that He died to set us free and that He gives us His perfect unconditional love. God's love changes everything. Are you ready to let it rock your world, expand your life and transform how you live?

I pray that in the coming six weeks you will grow a deeper foundation of appreciation and adoration for the power of Christ's love to overcome evil, to pierce the darkness and to make us alive and new. I pray that we will start living differently because of this life-changing love of God.

May His Word be active and alive in you and through you.

Love,

Colie

## **WBS Study Guide Format:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Reading Time:** Read the passage and make any notes or observations of the text on the page. Feel free to mark it up! All Scriptures in this guide are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.
- Question Time:** Answer questions about the text to help process what you just read and enhance your understanding
- Holy Spirit Time:** Pause and make space for the Holy Spirit to meet with you by sitting in silence and inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to you on the prompts given
- Application Time:** Process the questions honestly and apply what Scripture says to your own life
- Bible Time:** Read about the theme of the week in other books of the Bible to grasp the bigger picture of God's story
- Challenge Time:** Put into practice the lesson of the week in one specific way
- Prayer Time:** Close your time in God's Word with a guided prayer
- Note Time:** Take notes on the weekly teaching and anything that stands out to you in that time

**Before We Start:** \_\_\_\_\_

In this session we are going to be studying what God’s love is and how we are called to live it out. Therefore, it is important for us to first define what LOVE is. In the space below, define what the word “love” means to you:

**Love is** \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is God’s love story to the world, showing God’s sacrificial plan to send His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die for our sins. In the boxes below, draw a picture of what you think the world’s definition of love looks like and what you think God’s definition of love looks like. Some verses that may help you better conceptualize God’s love are: John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 2:4-5, John 15:13, and so many more!

**The World’s Definition of Love**

**God’s Definition of Love**

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Do you see any differences between the two pictures? If so, what are they?

Which definition of love are you more prone to live out of, and why?

Write a prayer to Jesus about what you hope to get out of this Bible study in 1, 2 & 3 John. Is there an area in your life where you need His love to transform you?



## WEEK ONE: God is Light

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This week we will learn about what it means that God is light, and what it means for how we are to live.

If you are joining us for WBS in-person on the church campus or joining a Satellite group in your leader's home, there is nothing you need to do in this study guide for Week 1. You will start your homework for Week 2 after your first group meeting, and you can take notes in the Week 1 section under "Note Time" for the weekly teaching. If your group is meeting online, you will just need to watch the WBS video teaching before your first group meeting which you can find here:

[www.cachurch.com/wbs](http://www.cachurch.com/wbs)

### Reading Time:

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#### 1 John 1:1 - 2:11 (NIV)

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.*

*5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

*8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.*

1 John 2

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

*3 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.*

*7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. 8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.*

*9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.*

**WEEK ONE: Note Time** \_\_\_\_\_

## **WEEK ONE: Group Introduction Questions**

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Every week, you will discuss the Application Time questions in this study guide with your group. This week, it's time to catch up and get to know new women in your group, and pray together that God would move in you through His Word! The questions below can be used at your first group meeting.

- 1) Introduce yourselves and share three good things, blessings or highlights in your life presently.
- 2) What is your hope for Women's Bible Study: 1, 2, 3 John in this season?
- 3) What is something you learned from the teaching this week? And what is something you can start applying in your life today?
- 4) How can your group be praying for you over the next six weeks? What do you feel you most need from God in this season?
- 5) If you haven't already, make sure to share your basic contact information (name, cell, email) with the women in your group so that you can stay connected.

## **WEEK TWO: Dear Children – The Great Invitation**

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This week we will learn about God's invitation to become His dear children and what it means to live out that calling.

### **Reading Time:**

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#### **1 John 2:12 - 3:18 (NIV)**

*I am writing to you, dear children,  
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.*

*13 I am writing to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I am writing to you, young men,  
because you have overcome the evil one.*

*14 I write to you, dear children,  
because you know the Father.*

*I write to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.*

*I write to you, young men,  
because you are strong,  
and the word of God lives in you,  
and you have overcome the evil one.*

*15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*

*18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.*

*19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.*

*20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and*

because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life.

26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

1 John 3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have

been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**Question Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) John addresses three groups: "dear children," "fathers," and "young men" (v. 12-14). Do you think these groups represent different physical ages, various spiritual maturity or perhaps a mixture of both? (There is no wrong answer here)
  
- 2) List the six reasons John gives for writing to these groups below. You can paraphrase them in your own words:
  - i) (v.12) Because \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii) (v.13) Because \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii) (v.13) Because \_\_\_\_\_
  - iv) (v. 14) Because \_\_\_\_\_

v) (v.14) Because \_\_\_\_\_

vi) (v.14) Because \_\_\_\_\_

Which one of these reasons resonates with you the most and why?

3) Why does John say that we should not love the world (1 John 2:16-17)?

4) How does John define a liar (v.22)?

5) Write out a description of what it means to be children of God based on 1 John 3:1-3.

6) How does John tell us to express the love of Christ as children of God (1 John 3:16-18)?



**Holy Spirit Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Invite the Holy Spirit to stir in you now. Open your heart and mind to Him, and ask Him to guide you. Ask Him to show you what the privileges of being a child of God are. Is there anything that feels more burdensome to being a child of God than a blessing? Share that with Him and ask Him to reveal the truth about what benefits and blessings there are to being His child. Record your observations below. Ask Him to reveal if there is anything blocking you from believing that you are a child of God.

**Application Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) As a believer in Christ, how do you feel being called a “child of God”? What does it mean to you that God calls you His own daughter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) John writes that we are not to love the world. If we are honest with ourselves, there are a lot of things in the world that we are prone to love, and sometimes we can love these more than Jesus. With a humble heart, in a safe space of grace, will you list below some of the things that capture your heart and affection more than Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Of the list you just made, did anything you wrote down surprise you or cause you concern? Why do you think that is?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) How can you love others with your actions and in truth this week, and not with just words or speech?

## **Bible Time: Dear Children – The Great Invitation**

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Read the following passages on the theme of the week and record your notes and observations.

*“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”*

- Romans 8:14-18

*“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

- Ephesians 5:1

*“So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

- Galatians 3:26-28

*“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”*

- John 1:11-13

*“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”*

- Ephesians 1:4-6



**Challenge Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Think through your family of origin. What did it mean to you growing up to be a child of your parents or guardians? Were there certain rules or family expectations that you were taught and perhaps still live by today?

Your goal this week is to reflect more in-depth on what it means for you to be a daughter of Christ. What are some realities that come from this role as child of the King? List a few of the privileges that come with being God's child, and also some of the expectations of how you are called to live. What would it look like for you to live out your identity and role as God's daughter this week?

**Prayer Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

God, thank you for the blessing and privilege of being called your child. I often don't feel worthy of that title, and yet in your goodness to me you bestow it on me, regardless of my own righteousness or worthiness. Thank you that Jesus died to make me a co-heir. Will you show me how to be your daughter this week? Will you turn my heart towards you and release me from things of this world that I have loved more than you? I desire to love my brothers and sisters. Help me to relish and delight in the gift of being your child this week. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## Decision Time:

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If you've never decided to follow Jesus and become a child of God, we want to invite you to respond to God's love for you by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You can choose to come out of the darkness and walk in the light by confessing your sin, receiving God's forgiveness, placing your trust in Jesus Christ, and being made right with God.

The Bible tells us that we are all sinners - we have all fallen short of God's standards - and all of us deserve death. But God, in His great love and mercy for us, sent His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus paid our debt so that we don't have to. He rose from the dead three days later, and all those who place their faith in Jesus will be forgiven for their sins, will be made right with God, and will receive the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

If you've never said "yes" to Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you're ready to today, you can pray the following prayer:

*Jesus, I need you. I am a sinner in need of your forgiveness and grace. I believe in You, Jesus Christ, as my Lord and Savior who died for my sin and rose to new life three days later. I give you my life and commit to following you. Show me your ways. Amen.*

If you prayed that prayer for the first time, please let us know by emailing [women@cachurch.com](mailto:women@cachurch.com) and we will celebrate with you and give you next steps on your spiritual journey. If you weren't ready to pray that prayer and want to talk with a pastor about any questions you might have, please email us and we'd love to talk with you.

**WEEK TWO: Note Time**

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## WEEK THREE: The Spirit of God

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This week we will study the Holy Spirit and His role in helping us to love like Jesus.

### Reading Time:

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#### 1 John 3:19 - 4:6 (NIV)

*19 This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: 20 If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. 23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. 24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

1 John 4

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.*

*4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.*

**Question Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) According to John, how does one know if they belong to the truth (1 John 3:19-22)? What do you think it means that our hearts condemn us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Write God's command to us (1 John 3:23) in your own words.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Where does John say God's Spirit resides, and how does this impact your understanding of the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) John instructs us not to believe every spirit but to test them. How should we test the spirits according to 1 John 4:2-3?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) What do you think is the importance of a believer being able to identify the Spirit of Truth versus the spirit of falsehood?

**Holy Spirit Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank the Lord that the Spirit of Truth, God's own Spirit, has been deposited in you through your belief in Jesus Christ! If you've never given your life to Christ, ask God to show you the truth of who Jesus Christ is through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you His presence. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you a truth that He desires for you to know today. Ask Him if there are any lies or spirits of falsehood in your life that have been deceiving you. Invite Him to illuminate anything that might be hindering your relationship with God. Record your observations below.

**Application Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What, if anything, has been your understanding of the Holy Spirit (maybe based on a church you grew up in, family beliefs, what you've read in the Bible, etc.).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) How often do you spend time asking the Holy Spirit to lead you in truth? Where do you need the Spirit to empower you and reveal to you who He is, and what is true and what is not true?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Can you think of any circumstances where you are having trouble discerning what is right and wrong? What would it look like for you to invite the Holy Spirit to help you discern what is true this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Where do you most need the Holy Spirit's guidance and power in your life these days? Share this with the women in your group so that you may pray for one another.

## **Bible Time: The Spirit of God**

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Read the following passages on the theme of the week and record your notes and observations.

*"All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

- John 14:25-26

*"You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."*

- Romans 8:9-11

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."*

- John 16:13-15

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."*

- 2 Corinthians 3:17

*"The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—  
3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord."*

- Isaiah 11:2-3



**Challenge Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

The world is continually trying to convince us of its own self-serving truths. However, God's Word tells us that the Spirit of God lives in us and will guide us into all truth, meaning His eternal truth. Where do you need the Spirit of God to guide you into truth today? Your goal this week is to think of a current situation or problem in your life where there is not peace and commit to praying that the Holy Spirit will guide you into truth every day this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to do what is right, even if it is hard. Commit your actions to be loving in Jesus' name and record the process in your journal.

**Prayer Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Lord, I pray that you would allow the Spirit of God to guide me to do what is right. I want to be obedient and follow your commands. Will you- in your grace- reveal or expose if I am believing any lies that are keeping me in sin, or keeping me from loving those you call me to love? I invite your Holy Spirit to convict me if I am living in a spirit of falsehood because I want to live in your beautiful truth, for your Word says that the truth will set me free (John 8:32). Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross and giving me the gift of your Holy Spirit. I do not want to live without Him. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**WEEK THREE: Note Time** \_\_\_\_\_





## WEEK FOUR: God is Love

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This week we will study about God's love, and what it means for us to love one another.

### Reading Time:

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#### 1 John 4:7 - 5:20 (NIV)

*7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

*13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.*

#### 1 John 5

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his*

commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

16 If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should pray about that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.

18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

**Question Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) How does John define love in this passage? What are some of the parameters he gives to describe it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Because God loves us, what are we called to do to others? Why do you think this is often so hard to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Reflect on 1 John 4:21: *"And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."* What is your initial reaction to this? According to this passage, how do we love God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) John clearly lays out what is eternal life. Who has eternal life and who does not have eternal life (1 John 5:11-12)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Write John's concluding remarks in your own words (1 John 5:18-20). What is the final point you believe he is making?

**Holy Spirit Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Invite the Holy Spirit to be with you and awaken you to His presence. Knowing that God is love, and that He gives us that love through His Son Jesus Christ, invite the Holy Spirit to show you the love that God has for you in Jesus Christ. What does it look like? What does it feel like? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to receive the infinite power of God's love through Jesus. Is there anything He is inviting you to do with the love you have received? Record your observations below.

**Application Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) When you hear that God is love and that He loves you, what does that mean to you?
- 2) We read clearly in this passage that we are called to love one another because of God's love for us in Christ Jesus. On a scale of 1-10, (1= awful and 10= amazing) rate yourself on how well you have been doing at loving others this week. What is the biggest barrier you face to loving others in your life?
- 3) God's Word says that we love God by obeying His commands. How does that differ from the world's concept of love? Are there any of God's commands that you have been struggling to obey this week? This month? This year? Tell Him about your troubles in those areas, ask for His forgiveness and receive His grace.

4) What would it look like for you to be intentional about loving others this week? Is there an area that you would like to invite others into to pray for you, so that the love of Christ may abound in you?

5) Spend a few minutes thanking God for His love and the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. What most fascinates you about the love of God? Write your thoughts and share them with your group as a way to praise and worship God.

## **Bible Time: God is Love**

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Read the following passages on the theme of the week and record your notes and observations.

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

- Romans 5:6-8

*"Though the mountains be shaken  
and the hills be removed,  
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken  
nor my covenant of peace be removed,'  
says the Lord, who has compassion on you."*

- Isaiah 54:10

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

- Galatians 5:20

*"But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,  
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."*

- Psalm 86:15

*"The Lord your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing."*

- Zephaniah 3:17





**Challenge Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

It's time to get creative about loving God. Make a list of all the ways you can show love to God through your obedience this week. Write down three things that you will do this week to show God you love Him by obeying His Word, and commit to completing them before you meet with your group again.

Some examples might be: honoring your parents by calling them or sending a card, not speaking ill against irritating people in your life, tithing to your church, refusing to gossip, not indulging in too much wine/chocolate/online shopping, etc., giving to those in need, forgiving a friend who has hurt you, not judging a neighbor who is different than you, being gentle with yourself when you make a mistake instead of berating God's masterpiece (that's you!), getting a good night's sleep, etc..

Now it's your turn! Use the space below to write your list of three action items.

**Prayer Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Lord, thank you for your great love for me. I confess I cannot grasp how much you love me. I ask that you would help me to be obedient and love you back by trusting your Word and doing as it says, even when it's hard. I desire to be a good witness of your love and realize that when I act poorly towards others it ruins my witness of showing your love to the world. Give me the grace to receive your love and the patience to be more loving to others this week. I desire to love you with all my heart, soul and mind. Help me to do so. Thank you for loving me perfectly. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**WEEK FOUR: Note Time** \_\_\_\_\_



## **WEEK FIVE: Walk in Truth & Love**

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This week we will study what it means to walk in truth and how this informs how we love.

### **Reading Time:**

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#### **2 John 1:1-13**

*The elder,*

*To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth— 2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:*

*3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.*

*4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. 5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

*7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. 11 Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.*

*12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.*

*13 The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings.*



**Holy Spirit Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Invite the Holy Spirit to come and minister to you. Open your palms face up and settle into a comfortable posture. Take a few deep breaths. Ask the Spirit where He wants you to walk in truth and love today. Wait for His response. Don't rush. Write/draw whatever comes to mind.

**Application Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What is your own understanding of the command “to walk in love” (v.6) ? Is there any particular circumstance, or a person that has been difficult for you to walk in love with? How can you lean on God to fulfill this command in that circumstance or relationship?
  
- 2) List any examples of deception or deceivers in our current world. How should Christ followers discern what is true and not true in their lives?
  
- 3) Are there any strange teachings, new age philosophies, or common cultural myths that you are allowing to inform your thinking and dictate your actions? What would it look like to renounce false teachings and walk in the truth in terms of your thoughts, beliefs and actions?
  
- 4) There is a big difference between knowing the truth in our heads and living it out with our lives. Are there any areas where you would like to grow in aligning your actions with the truth of God’s Word?



## **Bible Time: Walk in Truth & Love**

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Read the following passages on the theme of the week and record your notes and observations.

*“When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. 2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man, 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’”*

- 1 Kings 2:1-4

*“Teach me your way, Lord,  
that I may rely on your faithfulness;  
give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.”*

- Psalm 86:11

*“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

- Ephesians 5:1-2

*“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?”*

- Deuteronomy 10:12-13

*"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

*4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

*8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

- 1 Corinthians 13

**Challenge Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

This week your goal is to walk in the truth by loving one person who is difficult for you to love. It may be your spouse, a child, a co-worker, a brother or sister, a parent or a friend. Whoever it is, your challenge is to commit to loving this person this week with the love of Christ, which is patient and kind, slow to anger, abounding in grace (see 1 Corinthians 13). Write down their name below and commit to loving them with Christ's love (not yours) whenever you encounter them this week.

**Prayer Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Lord, thank you that you love the Church, your bride, and that you call your children to walk in truth by loving one another as Christ loves us. I pray this week that you would help me to love others like you do. I confess it is difficult to love some people in my life. Would you give me your grace and patience for those who are hard to love, and would you lend me your eyes to see them as you do. I commit to be obedient in this important command to love others as myself, and I invite you to help me do what I cannot do without You. May your love overflow in me this week. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**WEEK FIVE: Note Time** \_\_\_\_\_



## **WEEK SIX: Do What is Good**

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This week we will study our call to act in love and why it matters what we do.

### **Reading Time:**

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#### **3 John 1:1-14**

*The elder,*

*To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.*

*2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

*5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. 7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.*

*9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. 10 So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.*

*11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.*

*13 I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.*

*Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.*

## Question Time:

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- 1) John speaks of Gaius as one of his dear friends. What other expressions in his introductory address to Gaius draw out the deep love between these two men (v.1-4)?
- 2) How many times is the word "truth" written in this passage? What does that tell us?
- 3) In this letter, John is commending Gaius for his hospitality to missionaries (v.5-8). Why would this practice be a vital aspect of the early church, and how does that relate to our care for missionaries today? Do you think this is a high value of the Church?
- 4) John's primary concern is the love of Christ through the truth of the Gospel being made known. What two sins does he identify of Diotrephes (v.9) and how do they come against the Gospel of Jesus?

5) How is Demetrius different than Diotrephes in John's description of him (v. 12)?

6) John writes in this letter that he desires to be face to face with Gaius. What do you think the relational value is of being face to face?



**Holy Spirit Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Invite the Holy Spirit to come in and speak with you today. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you a picture of yourself as the bride of Christ, His church. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any ways that you can be the church with your actions this week. What does He show you? Where does He invite you? What would it look like for you to live out the call of love?



4) The charge at the end of this passage is to do good and not evil. We know this in our heads, but often justification and selfish desire can cause those lines to be blurry for us. Where might God be calling you to do good for someone in the community, instead of avoiding or ignoring others' needs?

5) In your own life, based on your unique giftings and circumstances, how might the Lord want to use you to build up and encourage other believers in the faith and encourage the Church?

## **Bible Time: Do What is Good**

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Read the following passages on the theme of the week and record your notes and observations.

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

- Ephesians 2:10

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"*

- Matthew 25:37-40

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

- Galatians 6:9

*"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*

- Hebrews 13:2

*"Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives."*

- Titus 3:14



**Challenge Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

We see John encouraging Gaius to welcome missionaries and to keep walking in the truth by loving one another. How can you love your local church this week? Maybe it is by volunteerin for a ministry, or writing a letter to your WBS leader, a church Kingdom Partner (missionary) or someone at the church. Maybe it's praying about starting a life group to invite other women to know Jesus more, or spending time praying this week for your local church and its leaders.

Your challenge is to commit to do one thing to love your local church and the Christian community around you this week.

**Prayer Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

God, thank you that your love moves us to action. You take us outside of ourselves to walk in your truth so that others may be blessed by seeing and experiencing your goodness among us. I pray that you reveal to me how you want me to love the local church this week. How can I be a blessing by living out my faith and welcoming brothers and sisters who preach the Gospel? I thank you that your word goes out and never returns void. Thank you for using me in your mighty plans to bless and heal. I desire to follow you and be obedient to your call. Show me the good works you have prepared in advance for me to do. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**WEEK SIX: Note Time** \_\_\_\_\_





**Prayer Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer Requests:** \_\_\_\_\_