

1 John: A Study Guide

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For Allison, Grace, & Megan

Meeting Dates

January 10 – Week 1	February 14 – No Study
January 17 – Week 2	February 21 – Week 6
January 24 – Week 3	February 28 – Week 7
January 31 – Week 4	March 7 – Week 8
February 7 – Week 5	

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Prayer and Bible Study.....	4
Week 1: Introduction to 1 John.....	5
Week 2: 1 John 1:1-10.....	6
Week 3: I John 2:1-14.....	12
Week 4: 1 John 2:15-3:3.....	18
Week 5: 1 John 3:4-24.....	24
Week 6: 1 John 4:1-21.....	30
Week 7: 1 John 5:1-12.....	36
Week 8: 1 John 5:13-21.....	42
1 John 1-5.....	48

Introduction

This study guide is a result of studying the Bible with you, ladies. Your desire to learn God's Word, your questions, realizations of truth, and yearning to see your friends meet Jesus have been a significant encouragement to me.

A few of us read together, *Women of the Word*, by Jen Wilkin, about how to study the Bible. This guide allows us to practice simple processes Wilkin discussed to “comprehend, interpret, and apply”¹ the Bible in our lives.

The first few days of each week, the study guide will lead you towards comprehending the passage of Scripture. Then, the next couple of days allow you to seek out how to interpret the passage for the “what does this mean?” portion of learning. Only after we have worked to comprehend and interpret the passage, will we move towards applying the passage to our own lives, remembering the Bible is first a book about God, not a book about us.

If you have done the homework, you will be ready for discussion and teaching time each week. But, do come even if you aren't finished; there is much to learn from 1 John! I will have additional copies of the study guide each week, so bring new friends along to learn who Jesus is.

¹ Jen Wilkin, *Women of the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014) 87.

Prayer and Bible Study

“Our prayers should arise out of immersion in the Scripture. [We] speak only to the degree we are spoken to. . . . The wedding of the Bible and prayer anchors your life down in the real God.”²

Tim Keller

Each day you will be prompted to open your time in the Bible by asking God for His help in understanding³. The words in the Bible are alive,⁴ having the power to completely transform us⁵. This transformation will only happen through the work of God in us during our time in His Word. Let’s not attempt to do this alone!

As you read each day, talk to Jesus. The Bible will lead you into different types of prayer. An acronym we often see for prayer is ACTS. ACTS represents **adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication**. As you read, take the time to adore, meaning to worship or praise, God for His characteristics you see in the passage. Praise Him as you see His love revealed for you. Praise him for His grace and mercy. Confess to God your sin as the passage leads you to clearly see your failings. Thank God for His forgiveness. Thank God for who He is in the passage. Thank God for His Scriptures to be able to know Him. Thank God for drawing you and freely offering His salvation. Supplication means request, ask, or petition. As you read, ask God to make you more like Him. If you don’t have the desire to read the Bible, ask that He would give you that desire. Ask that God would reveal Himself to you as you study His Word.

Yes, that’s a lot of praying; but don’t lose heart! As Jen Wilkin reminds us “Prayer is the means by which we implore the Holy Spirit to take up residence in our study time. Without prayer, our study is nothing but an intellectual pursuit. With prayer, it is a means of communing with God. Prayer is what changes our study from the pursuit of knowledge to the pursuit of Himself.”⁶ It doesn’t have to happen in a certain order. Just ask God for His help and converse with Him as you read. Jesus wants to be known by you.

² Timothy Keller, *Prayer* (New York: Penguin Books, 2014) 55-56.

³ Psalm 119:18

⁴ Hebrews 4:12

⁵ Romans 12:2, John 17:17

⁶ Wilkin 103

Week 1: Introduction to 1 John

Week 2: 1 John 1:1-10

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud. Remember, the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle unfamiliar words.
2. Write your initial questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 1:1-10.

1. Mark up the passage:
 - Underline in red each reference to one of the 5 senses (seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, smelling).
 - Draw a wavy black line under each occurrence of the word “beginning.”
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Draw a jagged green line under each occurrence of the word “walk.”
 - Shade or highlight in pink each occurrence of the word “fellowship.”
 - Circle in yellow each occurrence of the word “light.”
 - Shade in gray each occurrence of the words “sin” or “darkness.”
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”
2. Use a dictionary to look up the following words:
 - Manifest:

- Confess:
3. Use a dictionary to look up any additional words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

 4. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 1:9.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 1:1-10 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, or NASB).

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?

2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?

3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. This will add to your understanding of the passage. Note what you see in each pair of verses.
 - 1 John 1:1: See John 1:1

- 1 John 1:1: See Acts 4:20

- 1 John 1:1: See Luke 24:39

- 1 John 1:2: See John 1:4

- 1 John 1:2: See John 15:27

- 1 John 1:8: See Job 15:14

- 1 John 1:9: See Psalm 32:5

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 1:9.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 1:1-10.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 1:9.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 6

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please give me life according to your Word, that I may live as You ask.”* (Psalm 119:88)

Read 1 John 1:1-10.

1. What do these verses teach me about God?
2. How does knowing these aspects of God’s character change how I view myself?
3. What should I do in response to this truth?⁷
4. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 1:9.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

⁷ Adapted from Wilkin, 98

Week 3: 1 John 2:1-14

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud. Remember, the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle any additional unfamiliar words.
2. Write your initial questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 2:1-14.

1. Mark up the passage:
 - Draw a wavy black line under each occurrence of the word “beginning.”
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Draw a jagged green line under each occurrence of the word “walk.”
 - Circle in yellow each occurrence of the word “light.”
 - Shade in gray each occurrence of the words “sin” or “darkness.”
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw a heart in red around each occurrence of the word “love.”
 - Underline in brown each occurrence of the word “abide.”
 - Draw a dotted line in purple under each occurrence of the word “forgive.”
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”

2. Use a dictionary to look up the following words:
 - Advocate:

 - Propitiation:

3. Use a dictionary to look up any additional words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

4. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 2:1.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 2: 1-14 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, or NASB).

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?

2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?

3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. This will add to your understanding of the passage. Note what you see in each pair of verses.

- 1 John 2:1: See Romans 8:34

- 1 John 2:3: See John 14:15

- 1 John 2:6: See John 15:4-5

- 1 John 2:6: See Matthew 11:29

- 1 John 2:8: See Ephesians 5:8

- 1 John 2:10: See 2 Peter 1:10

- 1 John 2:13: See 1 John 5:4-5

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 2:1.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 2:1-14.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 2:1 below.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Week 4: 1 John 2:15-3:3

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud. Remember, the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle any additional unfamiliar words.
2. Write any new questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 2:15-3:3.

1. Mark up the passage:
 - Draw a wavy black line under each occurrence of the word “beginning.”
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Draw a jagged green line under each occurrence of the word “walk.”
 - Circle in yellow each occurrence of the word “light.”
 - Shade in gray each occurrence of the words “sin” or “darkness.”
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw a heart in red around each occurrence of the word “love.”
 - Underline in brown each occurrence of the word “abide.”
 - Draw a dotted line in purple under each occurrence of the word “forgive.”
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”
2. Use a dictionary to look up the following words:
 - Antichrist:

- Righteousness:

3. Use a dictionary to look up any additional words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

4. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 3:1.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 2:15-3:3 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, or NASB).

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?

2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?

3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. This will add to your understanding of the passage. Note what you see in each pair of verses.

- 1 John 2:15: See Romans 12:2

- 1 John 2:15: See James 4:4

- 1 John 2:18: See Matthew 24:24

- 1 John 2:18: See Matthew 24:5

- 1 John 2:19: See Acts 20:30

- 1 John 2:19: See John 17:12

- 1 John 2:20: See John 14:26

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 3:1.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 2:15-3:3.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 3:1.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Week 5: 1 John 3:4-24

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud– remember the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle any additional unfamiliar words.
2. Write any new questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 3:4-24.

1. Mark up the passage:
 - Draw a wavy black line under each occurrence of the word “beginning.”
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Shade in gray each occurrence of the words “sin” or “darkness.”
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw a heart in red around each occurrence of the word “love.”
 - Underline in brown each occurrence of the word “abide.”
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”
 - Draw a box in green around each occurrence of the word “practice.”
 - Shade in purple each occurrence of the word “commandment.”
2. Use a dictionary to look up the following words:
 - Lawlessness:

- Abide:

3. Use a dictionary to look up any additional words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

4. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 3:23.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 3:4-24 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, NASB).

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?

2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?

3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. Looking up the additional cross-referenced passages will add to your understanding if you choose to do so. Note what you see in each verse below.

- 1 John 3:4: See Romans 4:15

- 1 John 3:5: See Hebrews 9:25-26

- 1 John 3:5: See Isaiah 53:11-12

- 1 John 3:5: See 1 Peter 2:22

- 1 John 3:12: See Proverbs 29:10

- 1 John 3:13: See John 15:18

- 1 John 3:18: See Ezekiel 33:31

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write 1 John out 3:23.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 3:4-24.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 3:23.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 6

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please give me life according to your Word, that I may live as You ask.”* (Psalm 119:88)

Read 1 John 3:4-24.

1. What do these verses teach me about God?
2. How does knowing these aspects of God’s character change how I view myself?
3. What should I do in response to this truth?¹⁰
4. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 3: 23.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

¹⁰ Adapted from Wilkin, 98

Week 6: 1 John 4:1-21

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud– remember the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle any additional unfamiliar words.
2. Write any new questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 4:1-21.

1. Mark up the passage:
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw a heart in red around each occurrence of the word “love.”
 - Underline in brown each occurrence of the word “abide.”
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”
 - Shade in purple each occurrence of the word “commandment.”
 - Draw a wavy blue line under each occurrence of the word “spirit.”

2. Use a dictionary to look up any unfamiliar words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

3. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 4:10.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 4:1-21 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, or NASB).

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?
2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?
3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. This will add to your understanding of the passage. Note what you see in each pair of verses.
 - 1 John 4:1: See Jeremiah 29:8
 - 1 John 4:1: 2 Peter 2:1

- 1 John 4:2: See 1 Corinthians 12:3

- 1 John 4:4: See Romans 8:31

- 1 John 4:5: See John 15:19

- 1 John 4:6: See John 14:17

- 1 John 4:6: See 1 Timothy 4:1

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 4:10.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 4:1-21.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 4:10.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 6

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please give me life according to your Word, that I may live as You ask.”* (Psalm 119:88)

Read 1 John 4:1-21.

1. What do these verses teach me about God?
2. How does knowing these aspects of God’s character change how I view myself?
3. What should I do in response to this truth?¹¹
4. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 4:10.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

¹¹ Adapted from Wilkin, 98

Week 7: 1 John 5:1-12

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud. Remember, the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle any additional unfamiliar words.
2. Write any new questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 5:1-12.

1. Mark up the passage:
:
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw a heart in red around each occurrence of the word “love.”
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”
 - Shade in purple each occurrence of the word “commandment.”
 - Draw a wavy blue line under each occurrence of the word “spirit.”
 - Underline in green each occurrence of the word “testify.”
 - Draw 2 pink lines under each occurrence of the word “life” or “live.”
2. Use a dictionary to look up the following words:
 - Testify:
 - Borne:

3. Use a dictionary to look up any additional words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

4. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 5:12.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 5:1-12 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, or NASB)

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?
2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?
3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. This will add to your understanding of the passage. Note what you see in each pair of verses.
 - 1 John 5:1: See John 1:12

- 1 John 5:3: See Matthew 11:30

- 1 John 5:4: See 1 Corinthians 15:57

- 1 John 5:6: See John 15:26

- 1 John 5:9: See John 5:36-37

- 1 John 5:9: See Matthew 3:17

- 1 John 5:10: See Romans 8:16

- 1 John 5:11: See John 1:4

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 5:12.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 5:1-12.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write 1 John 5:12 below.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 6

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please give me life according to your Word, that I may live as You ask.”* (Psalm 119:88)

Read 1 John 5:1-12.

1. What do these verses teach me about God?
2. How does knowing these aspects of God’s character change how I view myself?
3. What should I do in response to this truth?¹²
4. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 5:12.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

¹² Adapted from Wilkin, 98

Week 8: 1 John 5:13-21

Day 1

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Open my eyes that I may see your truth.”* (Psalm 119:18)

Read 1 John 1-5. Read the entire book aloud– remember the original hearers would have had the book read aloud to them as a letter.

1. Circle any additional unfamiliar words.
2. Write any new questions in the margins.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 2

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Please teach me from Your Word.”* (Psalm 119:12)

Read 1 John 5:13-21.

1. Mark up the passage:
 - Draw a box in blue around each occurrence of the word “Father.”
 - Circle in orange each reference to Jesus. Pay close attention to the pronouns.
 - Shade in gray each occurrence of the words “sin” or “darkness.”
 - Draw an arrow from each transition word to its corresponding thought (e.g. if/then, therefore, because, but).
 - Draw an orange “T” through each occurrence of the word “true” or “truth.”
 - Draw 2 black lines under each occurrence of the word “know.”
 - Draw 2 pink lines under each occurrence of the word “life” or “live.”
2. Use a dictionary to look up the following words:
 - Wrongdoing:

 - Idol:

3. Use a dictionary to look up any additional words you circled on Day 1. Record the definitions below:

4. Memory verse: Write out 1 John 5:21.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 3

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please do not hide your commandments from me.”* (Psalm 119:19)

Read 1 John 5:13-21 in a different version than ESV. (Consider one: NIV, NKJV, CSB, or NASB).

1. What differences do you notice in the translations?
2. How does this add to your understanding of the text?
3. Look up the following cross-referenced passages. This will add to your understanding of the passage. Note what you see in each pair of verses.
 - 1 John 5:13: See John 20:31
 - 1 John 5:16: See Matthew 12:31-32

- 1 John 5:18: See 1 John 3:9

- 1 John 5:18: See John 17:12

- 1 John 5:19: See Luke 4:6

- 1 John 5:20: See Luke 24:45

- 1 John 5:20: See John 17:3

4. How do the cross-referenced passages add to your understanding of the text?

5. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 5:21.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 4

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your word. I need your help. Make me understand your Word.”*
(Psalm 119:27)

Read 1 John 5:13-21.

1. Write out a brief outline of the passage. Simply look for the main ideas and their sub-points.

2. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 5:21.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

Day 6

Pray – *“God, I am about to read your Word. I need your help. Please give me life according to your Word, that I may live as You ask.”* (Psalm 119:88)

Read 1 John 5:13-21.

1. What do these verses teach me about God?
2. How does knowing these aspects of God’s character change how I view myself?
3. What should I do in response to this truth?¹³
4. Memory verse review: Write out 1 John 5:21.

Pray – Praise God for the characteristics this passage revealed about Him. Confess any sin that was brought to mind during your study. Thank Him for His mercy in your life. Ask God to change you through the study of His word.

¹³ Adapted from Wilkin, 98

1 John

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—
²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But 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 cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.

¹³I 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.

I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

¹⁴I 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 abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the

eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹ I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

3 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved,

we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²²and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to

love one another.¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there

are three that testify:⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

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

¹⁶If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. ¹⁷All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

¹⁸We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

¹⁹We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

²⁰And we know 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, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.²¹Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

English Standard Version (ESV)

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