



ROOTWORKS

rooted in the word of God



Welcome to RootWorks!

The Bible is an amazing gift given to you. It is how God has chosen to reveal himself to us. It is reliable and steady. I know it's easy to see it as just a book, but the treasures you will learn from studying God's Word will be priceless. I'm excited that you want to study the Bible! One of my greatest joys is to see students reading and learning from God's Word. Thank you for getting after it!

What does RootWorks mean?

RootWorks comes from Colossians 2:6-7 which reads:

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, **ROOTED** and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

This passage is about becoming mature in your understanding and reliance on God. Maturity in one's relationship with God requires roots. The imagery in this passage suggests that our spiritual roots must grow deep so that we'll continue in our vital relationship with God. This type of growth requires putting our ROOTS to WORK. Get it?

Why do RootWorks?

The reason I'm making this notebook available is because I want you to learn how to study the Bible through reading and asking questions. This time of social distancing should remind you that there might not always be someone you have access to who will teach you the Bible. For long-term maturity it is important for you to read the Bible and learn to ask questions. I want you to develop the habit of studying God's Word.

How long will RootWorks take to finish?

The answer to this question depends on how much thought you give to answering the questions. The questions are not intended to be "raced through." Your goal shouldn't be speed; it should be comprehension and personal application. As a general rule, each lesson shouldn't take more than thirty to forty-five minutes.



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How often should I complete a lesson?

This depends upon you. It's up to you on how often you decide to sit down and work through this material. The idea would be to keep consistent. You don't want to do too much too fast and get burned out or tired. At the same time, you don't want to answer one question a month—this will break up the continuity and the cohesiveness of the lesson, and you'll be 35 years old by the time you finish.

I suggest sitting down and working through a lesson each day.

What do I do when I finish all five lessons?

Celebrate! You will have worked hard to reach this goal. Chances are you'll have some questions. I am available through Facebook, Instagram, Email and phone if you ever need to ask a question about the material. When you're ready for the next RootWorks notebook let me know.

What if I don't know an answer for a specific question?

Keep going. Don't let it discourage you. I would be surprised if you didn't have some questions that "stump" you. Give it some good thought and then skip it if you don't know the answer.

What Bible translation should I use?

You can use just about any translation Bible and still be able to figure out the questions. When I wrote the questions I was using the NIV translation, but I've worked the questions so you can use almost any Bible and make it through.

If this translation talk is confusing, don't worry about it. Basically, when the Bible was written 2,000 plus years ago, it was written in (mostly) Hebrew. The Bible you own has been translated from its original language into English so you can read and understand it. (If you think economics is tough, you should try Hebrew.)

Have you ever noticed that you use some words differently than the ways your parents use those same words? After a time, words simply change their meaning; therefore, we have different translations of the Greek and Hebrew. Imagine the change that would happen over 400 years! That was when the King James Version was written—and that is why some of the language sounds so weird.



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Should I also write in my own Bible during this study?

Yes! I hope you will write notes in the margin of your Bible, underline key verses, and watch your Bible become a friend that is waiting to tell you more about God and His desires for your life.

It is also a real good idea to have a journal or notebook of some sort with you also in case you want to write down something to remember later, or if the Holy Spirit moves on your heart and gives you a special word.

What are the other HABITS I should be developing?

Great question! (Thanks, I wrote it.) One of the many goals in our ministry is to help committed students develop HABITS necessary for continual spiritual growth. We've identified these habits and created some tools (like RootWorks) to assist you in developing these habits:

H ang time with God	Prayer and solitude
A ccountability (with another believer)	Band Meetings
B ible memorization	Grow Cards
I nvovement with the church body	Worship
T ithing commitment	Giving to support the work of Jesus
S tudy the Bible	ROOTWORKS

If you don't have any of the other tools besides this RootWorks, you can get them from Pastor Kit or Grace. Just Email us and we will help you out

The Author: John

Just in case the title didn't give it away, the author of this letter is John. You might remember John from the Gospels—he was one of Jesus' disciples. He and his brother James were very close to Jesus, along with Simon Peter. John and James were fishermen by trade, and worked for their father, Zebedee, when Jesus called them to follow him (Luke 5:1-11). John and his brother left everything to follow Jesus. Of all the disciples, John was the one closest to Jesus—kind of like his "best friend" (John 21:20). This means that 1 John is written by someone who didn't just know *about* Jesus, but knew him like a brother; walking with him and witnessing everything he did! That is exciting! Although John was probably a large and gruff man (his nickname was "son of thunder"), by the end of Christ's ministry on earth, John knew, understood, and embodied the tenderness of God's love. John's emphasis on



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love is very strong in his writing. It seems that John had a passion for communicating this love to people who didn't know Christ. John became a leader in the early church, and we believe he is the one ultimately exiled (or imprisoned) on the isle of Patmos (off the coast of modern-day Turkey) for exhibiting his faith. There he received a great vision, or revelation, from the Lord, which he wrote down in the book of Revelation. That vision tells of Christ's victory over Satan at the end of the world. Other books John wrote are The Gospel according to John, 2 and 3 John, and the book of the Revelation.

The Audience: Christians Everywhere

John wrote this letter to Christians everywhere. It was not uncommon for leaders in the Christian faith to write letters that were copied and circulated to churches to be read aloud.

One of the major problems John addressed in this letter was that of false teachers. Since Christianity was only 50-60 years old, some people had returned to beliefs and practices that were not from God. John spends a lot of time in this book speaking against false teachers who did not believe that Jesus actually lived, or that Jesus was God's Son. These teachers were spreading false beliefs that were leading some believers astray.

Today, we can learn a lot from this book—from cults to new age beliefs to psychics, we are bombarded by teachings and beliefs that are not from God. In this book, John admonishes us as Christians to test the spirits (or teachings) to see if they are from God.

Another important theme in this book is love. John teaches that we should love one another because God loves us. He also teaches that God *is* love . . . the Creator and the Source of all love. As you read this book, try to notice all the contrasts that John uses to illustrate truth: light and dark; the ways of the world and the ways of God; love and hate; and others. See how many you can find as you study this book (check out 1:5; 2:7-8; 2:15-16; 2:18; 2:20-21; 3:1-10; 3:14-16; 4:1-3; 4:18-19; and 5:11-12).

Finally, as you read, I hope you will see that John is a gentle, loving pastor in his heart. He constantly uses phrases like "my dear children," or "dear friends," when addressing his readers. His love for all Christians is clear as he gently encourages us to stay true to what we know, to love one another,



and reminds us that Jesus Christ—whom he knew personally—is the Son of God who came to save us from our sins.



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LESSON 1 – 1 John 1:1-10

Questions for 1 John 1:1-4

1. What does John want to proclaim concerning the Word of Life?
2. John had first hand knowledge of Jesus. Do you think first-hand knowledge is necessary for someone to believe in Jesus? Why?
3. Jesus was always surrounded by doubt. People seemed to want to see miracles to prove that He was who He said He was. Even Thomas, one of Jesus' closest followers, doubted his authenticity (John 20:19-31). Do you or someone you know have doubts about the reality of Jesus?

4. What are some reasons you or your friends might doubt?

There are a lot of other sources besides the Bible that prove the existence of Jesus. Actually, most skeptics don't deny the existence of Jesus. They deny Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

5. According to verse 4, why did John write this letter?

6. Why do you think John's joy was "made complete" by writing this letter?

7. Why do you think John is so excited for his audience to know about Jesus?

8. Have you ever had the privilege of leading a friend to Christ? If so, describe how it felt.

Questions for I John 1:5-10

1. John uses the contrast between “light” and “dark” to illustrate his point. Take some time to think about why John would describe God as light. On the list below, write down five qualities of light.

Next to each of those qualities, write how God might be like that quality:

Quality of light:

Example: Light allows us to see

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Example: God shows us how to live life

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2. Since God is light, what do you think “walking in the light” or living in the light means? (verse 1:7)



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3. What areas of your life might be different if you consistently walked in the light?
4. According to verse 1:9, what are the two results of confessing our sins?
5. Verses 1:8 and 1:10 describe the opposite of confessing our sins. What is the result?
6. What do you think it mean that God is ready to “purifies us” or “cleanses us” (verse 1:9)?

How much sin is covered under God’s forgiveness?

This is Good news! Is confession a part of your daily prayer life?

Wrapping It Up

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?
2. List some questions you have from this lesson:



Make sure you pause and thank God for His forgiveness (verse 9) and the freedom to walk in the light of God's presence.

LESSON 2 – 1 John 2:1-14

Questions for 1 John 2:1-6

1. John gives us another reason for writing this letter (the first being found in 1:4). What is the other reason (verse 2:1)?

2. John is gently reminding Christians, or his "dear children," not to sin even though forgiveness is available. Have you ever prayed to be forgiven for a sin only to do it again a couple days later?

3. Sin happens, and we can easily deceive ourselves about it. It is important that we seek forgiveness by confession. Is there someone in your life that you confess your sin too?

4. If you don't have this type of person in your life, I encourage you to find 2 to 4 other people you know and trust and form a band meeting (ask Pastor Kit or Grace how to do that)?

5. According to John, if we do sin (do something that separates us from God), what saves us from that separation?

6. According to John how do we know we have come to know Jesus (2:3,6)?

7. If someone were to judge your life, would there be enough evidence to "convict" you as a guilty of knowing Jesus?



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8. What are some specific ways you “obey his commands”?
9. According to verse 2:4, what makes someone a liar?
10. Why do you feel it is important for your life to match your words (or your claim to be a Christian)?
11. What do you think the non-Christian world thinks about Christians who don’t live like Christians? What effect do you think this has on the Kingdom of God?

Questions for 1 John 2:7-14

1. John writes in verse 2:7: “I’m not writing you a new command but an old one.” What is the old command?

Can you think of something you already know but need to be continually reminded of?

2. Reread verses 2:9-11 and replace the word "light" (or "the light") with "God's way" and replace "darkness" (or "the darkness") with "the World's way." How do you feel about this passage when you read it like that?
3. What are some practical ways you can "love others?"
4. What specific ways does John mention in this passage?
5. Are there "others" you need to show that type of love?
4. After reading this section of scripture, how would you define the connection between loving God and loving others?
5. Which is more difficult for you: loving God or loving others? Why?

6. John has some encouraging words about the Christians he was writing to. Make a list of the words that described the dear children, fathers, and young men (verses 12-14):

**Dear Children
Men**

Fathers

Young

e.g. sins were forgiven

7. In the New Living translation, verse 2:14 reads, *I have written to you, children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you who are mature because you know Christ, the One who is from the beginning. I have written to you who are young because you are strong with God's word living in your hearts, and you have won the battle with Satan.* How are you different from the rest of the world because the living Word of God is in your heart?

Wrapping It Up

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?
2. List some questions you have from this lesson:
3. Ask God to give you wisdom so you can show love to others.



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LESSON 3 – 1 John 2:15-3:10

Questions for 1 John 2:15-17

1. What does John mean when he says “do not love the world?” What do you think are some things in the world that we shouldn’t love?

2. How can our “love of the world” squeeze out our love for God?

3. According to verse 2:16, what isolates you from God?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Definition of Antichrist: "An antichrist is one who opposes Christ . . . a person who is opposed to the authority of Christ as head of the church and creation." (*New Unger's Bible Dictionary*)

List examples of how you might struggle with each of these.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. Once again, John contrasts two opposites to get his point across. According to verse 2:17, what will happen to the world and its desires (and consequently, anyone who loves the world or gives in to its desires)?

5. What is the opposite of giving in to the world’s desires?

6. Are there desires do you need for God to change in your life?



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Questions for 1 John 2:18-27

1. John didn't use the phrase "last hour" with its literal meaning in mind; instead, he was attempting to convey a sense of urgency to his readers. What do you think he was trying to warn his readers about in verses 2:18-27?
2. What is an "anointing" (verse 20)?
3. John urges his readers to see to it that the gospel "remains" in them. How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us stay in Christ? (hint: we have some videos about it on Facebook and instagram)
4. Write your own definition of "antichrist" in words that you would use to explain to a non-Christian.
5. Reread verse 2:23. A lot of people believe in God, but this verse teaches us that the Father and the Son are God at the same time. Other religions and cults say they believe in God, but they deny that the Son (Jesus), the Father, and the Holy Ghost (Spirit) are one. Do you know of any religions that believe in God but don't believe that Jesus was God's Son or that Jesus wasn't fully God and fully human?
6. In *The Message* paraphrase, 1 John 2:24 reads: *Stay with what you heard in the beginning, the original message. Let it sink into your life.* What is it you think John's readers "heard in the beginning?"



7. What do you think it look like if someone let God's Word "sink deep into their life?" (Look up Psalm 119:11.)
8. Re-read verse 2:25. How can the promise of a future, eternal life with God, impact your present daily life?
9. John is really trying to combat the false teachings these people were receiving because he was worried some would be "led astray." He wants them to know the truth of God's teaching, so they'll have a faith that is pure and true. Are there any areas in your life that keep you from following "God's Way"?

Questions for 1 John 2:28-3:10

1. Have you ever really thought about what it will be like when Jesus returns? According to 2:28, how should Christians be ready for Jesus when He appears?
2. At some point everyone has moments of doubt. Is there anything that causes you to doubt that God is who the Bible says He is?
3. If yes, write down your doubts.



4. If no, what do you think helps you stay “confident and unashamed” in your walk with God?
5. What does it mean to be a “child of God?” What are some possible advantages to being His child? (3:1)
6. What do you think John meant when he said the world does not know us because the world does not know Him (3:1)?
7. Verse 3:6 says: “no one who lives in Him keeps on sinning.” This means that even though Christians will commit sins from time to time, we will no longer live under the continual power of sin. What do you think are some things in your life that are different because you are not under the power of sin?
8. Verses 7-10 are a fairly intense description of those who belong to God and those who belong to Satan. Being holy (doing what is right) and loving people seem to be a good start to belong to God. How would you describe what sin is and what being holy is to a friend?



Wrapping It Up

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?
2. List some questions you have from this lesson:
3. Pause and thank God for your inheritance into His family and that, as a believer, you are one of His children.



LESSON 4 – 1 John 3:11-4:21

Questions for 1 John 3:11-18

1. There are so many different types of love. Love for your parents, love of certain activities, love for friends, even love for a certain food. John is clear when he writes of the importance of “loving one another.” What are three examples of how you can show love for others?
2. How does John use the example of Cain and Abel to help you understand this scripture? (You may want to read the story in Genesis 4:1-12.)
3. In verse 14, John writes about “passing from death to life.” What do you think that means?
4. Real love is seen through actions, not only words. Real love produces selfless sacrificial giving. How can you sacrificially “give your life” to others on a daily basis?
5. We can show others that we love them in many different ways. Normally we believe someone loves us when they continue to show us they love us. God wants us to show him love by showing people love. (even the ones that we don’t like)
How can we show love with our words?



How can you show love with your money?

How can you show love with your possessions?

How can you love with your time?

6. Are there any changes you need to make right now so others can see the love of God in you?

Questions for 1 John 3:19-24

1. "God knows everything." Does this phrase raise a guilty feeling or a joyful feeling for you? Why? (3:20)
2. John makes it clear that our motives for showing love must be genuine. (Not just to get something I want) As God's children, He loves it when we do things that are pleasing to Him. What are some things in your life you do that please God?
3. Is it easy to have confidence before God? Why or why not?



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4. What can we do to help us have confidence before God? (3:22)
5. Reread verses 23-24. How do we know that God lives in us?
6. The way that we act and how we present ourselves to others verifies the fact that Christ lives in us. Who has been a role model to you in showing that Christ lives in them?
7. How have they shown love to you or to others?

Questions for 1 John 4:1-6

1. There are a lot of things in the world that will look right and feel right, but end up not quite being right. (i.e. cafeteria chicken nuggets) Sometimes you have to test what is being said to you. According to scripture What test do we use in order to know the words we hear are from the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 7:15-16

1 John 3:23-24

1 John 4:2



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2. Even with these instructions on how to test if something is from God, can it be difficult to be sure sometimes?
3. How often do you pray about things you are struggling with?
4. What do you think John means when he says "they are from the World"? (4:5)
5. What promise does verse 4 have for us about the World?

Rewrite verse 4 in your own words

Questions for 1 John 4:7-13

1. John says "God is love" not "love is God." The world can turn these words around and distort the meaning of love. The world thinks that love is acceptance at any cost.
How did God show His love for us (verse 9-10)?



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2. How would you define love after reading verse 9-10?
3. In verse 12, John states that "no one has ever seen God." What examples evidence do we have that confirms the fact that God is real? (You might read Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1.)
4. How can God's love be seen through you?

Questions for 1 John 4:14-21

1. What do you think is "the day of judgment" that John talks about in verse 17?
2. In verse 18, John says that God's love is perfect. What does it say that perfect love gets rid of?
3. How can perfect love get rid of fear?
4. The goal is to grow in the likeness of Jesus (verses 17-18), Are there areas in your life that need to change so you can grow in your likeness of Jesus?



5. The real test of our love for God is how we treat the people right in front of us (family, friends, relatives, leaders). Some times it is helpful to take a look at how I treat people to make sure I am acting like Christ. Below is a chart that might help you.

Name	How I treat them	How they should be treated
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Wrapping It Up

1. What verse did you find most meaningful in this lesson? Why?
2. List some questions you have from this lesson:
3. Thank God that He is love and for loving you in a way that no one could ever love you.



LESSON 5 – 1 John 5:1-21

Questions for 1 John 5:1-12

1. As Christians, we are part of God's family, along with other Christians, who are children of God. We are called to love them and accept them. Who is someone in God's family that needs your love?
2. Read verse 5 and complete the following sentence: We can overcome the world by . . .
3. In verse 5:6, John writes that Jesus came "by water and blood." What did he mean by water? What about blood?
4. What does verses 11- 12 tell us about the eternal life God offers us?

Questions for 1 John 5:13-21

1. When we pray what can we be confident happens (verses 5:14 & 15)?
2. In the New Living Translation verse 5:14 reads: And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything that is in line with His will. What do you think this means?



3. What are some ways we can better understand the will of God so we can ask in confidence when we pray?

4. Paul lets us know that all sin is death and the gift of Jesus Christ is life (Romans 6:23). Through faith in Christ we are justified or saved from that sin. According to verse 16 what should we do if we see someone sinning? (see also Hebrews 10:26)

5. What is the sin that leads to death, verse 16 talks about? (see Mark 3:28-29)

6. According to verse 20, what is the result of Jesus' coming to earth?

Wrapping It Up

1. What phrase or verse do you find most meaningful? Why?

2. What are some things from this lesson you don't understand?

