



THIS IS HOW YOU KNOW: AUTHENTICITY PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

TAKEAWAY:

The authentic Christian life—one of true joy and fullness—is only possible in and through Christ.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

Our theology must be lived out. What we say we believe about God should speak, not only through our words, but also through our lives.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

God's command from the beginning was fully realized, perfected, and demonstrated through the life and sacrificial death of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Can you remember a time when you were stuck in the dark? How did you feel? When you finally found a light source, how did things change?
- 2 How does this compare to the difference between living apart from Christ and living in relationship with Him?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read 1 John 1:1-4.

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.

- Why do you think John emphasized the humanity of Jesus so much? Why is the incarnation (Jesus becoming flesh) so pivotal for our relationship with God?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the “Word of life”?
- Why did John emphasize fellowship? Why is fellowship with other believers so important? Why is it important for our fellowship with God?
- Why do you think John concluded the prologue focused on joy? What does it mean for one's joy to be “complete”? How did this get to the point of John's letter?

- Read John 1:1-18. What common themes do you notice when comparing this passages to 1 John 1:1-4? What words, phrases, and ideas are repeated in both?
- Why are both Jesus' deity and humanity essential to the gospel? Why can't the gospel just include one of these doctrines?

> Read 1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 2:1-6.

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 yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by 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 has no place in our lives.

2 ¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—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 obey his commands. ⁴ The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

- What are some ways you feel the pull between walking in the light and walking in darkness?
- What are some ways we might be content to leave certain areas of life in the dark? Why is this impossible for those who are truly following Jesus?
- What would you say is the greatest sacrifice you have ever made for another person? What is a sacrifice someone else made that particularly impacted you?
- How do you respond to this kind of sacrifice made on your behalf? How does it change the way we relate to God? How does it inform your daily walk with Him?
- How should Christ's full and final sacrifice compel you to love and serve others?
- How do these verses instruct believers to walk in the light of Christ?
- What is at stake in our obedience? Why are our words alone insufficient?
- How is God convicting you of places you have “talked the talk” but not “walked the walk” according to His Word? How will you respond?

> Read 1 John 2:7-11.

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 you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

- What is the “old commandment” that John referenced? Why would he remind his readers of it?
- Why is it important for followers of Christ to remember the “old” things of the faith?
- Though the command was old, how had it also become new?
- How should the love that Jesus displayed for us affect the way we love others? How is this new according to the world’s definition of love?
- Why is love for God and love for others always connected?
- How does discord and hatred with others affect our relationship with God?

APPLICATION

- 1 Where do you currently feel the strongest pull between walking in the light versus the dark? Where are you most tempted to go back into the darkness?
- 2 Where are you struggling to put God’s words and ways into practice? Where are you more comfortable keeping your belief in God “in theory only”?
- 3 What is the role of the church body in helping one another walk in the light with Christ? How can our group support you in this?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize 1 John 1:7
- Read 1 John 1:1-4 on Monday
- Read 1 John 1:5-10 on Tuesday
- Read 1 John 2:1-2 on Wednesday
- Read 1 John 2:3-6 on Thursday
- Read 1 John 2:7-8 on Friday
- Read 1 John 2:9-11 on Saturday