



## THIS IS HOW YOU KNOW: SECURE IN JESUS PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

### TAKEAWAY:

God has assured us of eternity in Christ.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

Our assurance of eternity informs how we live, pray, and speak truth to those around us.

### GOSPEL CONNECTION:

We can rest in the finished work of Christ, who has made a place for us with Him in eternity.

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Are you a risk taker? Or would you rather be sure about the outcome before you begin?
- 2 If you can, share an example.

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read 1 John 4:17-21; 5:1-5.

*In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

*5 <sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup> This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

- How is love perfected, according to the text? Whose love is perfected?
- How does love give us confidence for eternity, even while in this world?
- What are some ways we are prone to let fear rule our lives more than confidence in Christ?

- What are some other reasons we might want to love others? What motivation might we have outside of God's love for us?
- How do you struggle most to love others? Is there a particular group, circumstance, or action that is particularly unlovable to you? How might you be relying on your flesh to love others instead of relying on God's love for you?
- In what ways does it sometimes feel overwhelming and burdensome to follow God's commands?
- How is our love for God tied directly to our obedience of God?

> Read 1 John 5:6-12.

*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. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. <sup>9</sup> We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. <sup>10</sup> Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- What did John mean in saying that Jesus came by both water and blood? Why would that have been an important thing to emphasize?
- Why is it important that we as Jesus' followers hold to His identity as both God and man?
- What is the significance of there being multiple witnesses to the reality of Jesus' identity and not just one or John's words alone?
- What are some false beliefs people have about who Jesus was/is? Why is our belief about Jesus so critical to our faith?
- How do our own lives function as a testimony to God? What happens if we don't testify to the Son of God?
- How is God calling you to testify about Jesus now? How will you respond?

> Read 1 John 5:13-21.

*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. <sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. <sup>16</sup> If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him 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 he should pray about that.* <sup>17</sup> *All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.* <sup>18</sup> *We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.* <sup>19</sup> *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.* <sup>20</sup> *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—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.* <sup>21</sup> *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

- Why would the believers in John's community need a reminder of eternal assurance? How does that kind of assurance inform how we live daily?
- How does assurance of our eternity inform our prayer life?
- What should our response be to a brother or sister stuck in sin? Is this in line with how you typically respond? Explain.
- How can we experience victory over sin in this life?
- Why were these reminders vital for believers?
- Why do you think John ended his letter with an abrupt command against idols?

## APPLICATION

- 1 Do you ever doubt your eternal security in Christ? What causes that doubt? If you are in Christ, what truth do you need to remember and claim in this season?
- 2 Do you pray according to God's will, knowing He hears and answers you? What makes you doubt that reality? What keeps you from praying in this way?
- 3 Are there any idols you are putting up in the place of Christ? How are those incongruent with the Christian life if we truly believe we belong to God?

## THIS WEEK

- Memorize 1 John 5:13
- Read 1 John 4:17-18 on Monday
- Read 1 John 4:19-21 on Tuesday
- Read 1 John 5:1-5 on Wednesday
- Read 1 John 5:6-12 on Thursday
- Read 1 John 5:13-17 on Friday
- Read 1 John 5:18-21 on Saturday