

WINTER 2024 SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WHAT IS LOVE?

SESSION #1 – THE WORD OF LIFE

READ 1 JOHN 1:1-4

WATCH VIDEO #1

1. The video said John will cover three themes in this letter: Truth, Obedience, and Love. In which are you most interested and why?
2. John uses eyewitness language in v.1-2 (heard, seen, touched, etc.) How is this significant and which words stand out to you?
3. What can we learn about Jesus, the “word of life,” from this passage? How might this description deepen your worship of him?
4. John proclaims the truth of Christ to his readers by this letter. What steps can you take to proclaim Christ in your context?
5. The message of eternal life offers fellowship with God and with other Christians. How are you experiencing that type of Christian fellowship?
6. God intends this fellowship to bring joy to those who have it. Are you joyful in Christ right now? Why or why not?

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SESSION #2 – WALKING IN DARKNESS OR LIGHT

READ 1 JOHN 1:5-10

WATCH VIDEO #2

1. Discuss the states of “light” and “darkness” as understood in the ancient world, describing a person who walks in darkness vs. a person who walks in the light.
2. If we examine ourselves, how can we know whether we are in light or darkness?
3. Considering the above, do you ever feel like you are walking in light and darkness at the same time? Explain. Is this even possible?
4. In v.6-7, John links being in fellowship with Christ and with other Christians to cleansing from sin. How have you seen this connection in your life or in the lives of others?
5. Those in the light will still sin, but they will confess it and repent instead of denying or hiding it (see v.8, 10). How do you practice confession of sin and repentance in your life?
6. Becoming increasingly righteous (cleansed from sin) happens imperfectly, but increasingly, over a lifetime. How has God been cleansing you over the past year or so? Who or what has he used to accomplish this?

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SESSION #3 – FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ADVOCATE

READ 1 JOHN 2:1-6

WATCH VIDEO #3

1. John loves these people ("my little children"), and so he tells them not to sin. Contrast this with the popular view of love today.
2. We are to remember that Jesus is our righteous advocate before the Father. How should this shape your perspective on Jesus and grow your love for him?
3. Evaluate this statement: Knowing Jesus is our advocate and the payment for our sins (propitiation) should cause us to keep his commandments.
4. If only those who repent and trust in Christ will be saved, how is the sacrifice of Jesus "for the sins of the whole world" (v.2)?
5. Are you growing in your love for God? How can you tell? How does John suggest we can tell?
6. What steps can you take today to more closely imitate the life of Jesus and "walk in the way in which he walked" (v.6)?

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SESSION #4 – LOVING OUR BROTHERS IN THE LIGHT

READ 1 JOHN 2:7-17

WATCH VIDEO #4

1. Read these passages: Leviticus 19:17-18, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:34-40. What sticks out to you about this old and new commandment?
2. John says this commandment is true in Jesus and true in you (the church). How faithfully is the church living out this commandment today?
3. How would walking in the light lead us to love even the most difficult people around us?
4. Summarize the messages of the poetic stanzas of v.12-14. Which group's messages do you really need to hear right now and why?
5. See v.15-17. How does this part of the passage connect to walking in the light?
6. How are the things of the world "passing away" when it sure seems like they are increasing?

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SESSION #5 – THOSE TRYING TO DECEIVE YOU

READ 1 JOHN 2:18-27

WATCH VIDEO #5

1. What first comes to mind (before watching the video) when you hear the word “antichrist”? How does this compare to John’s definition?
2. What experience do you have with people leaving the church or even the Christian faith? What does this passage teach us about that?
3. Are you ever anxious about the genuineness and quality of your own faith? How can this passage ease your concerns?
4. John is very clear about who is of God and who isn’t (see v.23). How can we proclaim this message boldly but lovingly?
5. God has promised that he will keep us from deception if we abide in him. Practically, what does abiding in Christ look like in the life of a Christian?
6. What can the church do to protect our people from deception and prepare them to discern truth from error? How is NAPC doing in this regard?

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SESSION #6 – CHILDREN OF GOD

READ 1 JOHN 2:28-3:10

WATCH VIDEO #6

1. Explain why we should be confident when Jesus returns even though we are sinners?
2. What does it look like to “practice righteousness” as a Christian?
3. God could have decided to merely tolerate us or give us one more chance. Instead, he calls us his children. Describe what this means to you.
4. According to John (v.3 and 9), why are Christians supposed to stop sinning? Are there other motivations for avoiding sin?
5. 1 John 1-3 outlines many things Christians should do and many things we should stop doing. What commitments do you feel convicted or encouraged to make right now?
6. Remember, 1 John's themes are Truth, Obedience, and Love. What have you learned in one or more of these areas throughout this study?