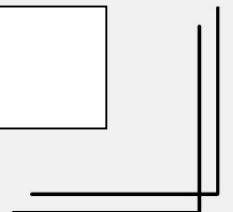


WALK



2025 LAUNCH SERIES IN 1 JOHN

Name:



Why study 1 John?

Do you wish you could be more confident? Some people never seem to suffer a moment's doubt about anything, whereas you fret and agonise with constant uncertainty. OK, so you're a Christian- but doesn't that just mean there are more and bigger things to be unsure about? We can be unsure about the truth of the gospel message; about whether God will judge or punish us; about whether our forgiveness is secure; about how to continue in the Christian life; and about our guidance for the future. And so many different "Christian" voices speak to us on matters of eternal life and death. How can we be sure of the real truth about Jesus? How do we know for certain that we are saved? How can we tell if others are truly from God or not? At a time when the first-century church had been invaded by false teachers, the apostle John knew that Christians who are not sure of God's truth can wander away, never to return. He wrote to help his "dear children", not only to know the real truth, but to be confident of it. If then, why not today? We all urgently need to hear and obey God's loving message in this letter of John's. 1 John, Good Book Company, p5

We hope and pray that this preaching and home group series, '**Walk Assured**' will help you to continue in Christ, so that you may be discerning about the truth, confident in its meaning for your life and unashamed when he returns.

Walk ASSURED

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Walk in Christ

Study 1 -1 John 1:1-4

Main Idea: God stepped into history in his Son Jesus which means we can have real confidence in him and his promise of eternal life.

Intro

The apostle John wrote to a group of churches in what is modern-day Turkey. False teachers were saying that physical things were evil and spiritual things were good.

This led to two dangerous errors:

- a) They said that the human person, Jesus, was given the spirit of “the Christ” at his baptism, who then left him at the cross [known as ‘Cerinthianism’]. Jesus was just an ordinary man who was inspired for part of his life.
- b) They believed they could live as they wanted because what they did with their bodies did not matter. A distinctive Christian lifestyle was irrelevant.

John insists on the real life and death of Jesus Christ—God in the flesh. And he says that sin matters, and how Christians live is equally important.

In view of these false teachers, John writes to assure the believers that they are on the right track by believing in the authentic Jesus [see 1:4; 2:1, 12-14, 21, 26, 5:13]. John wants those who believe in the Son of God to *know* they have eternal life. Belief in Jesus as the Son of God means they truly are the children of God [3:1] and therefore they do indeed have eternal life.

- i. **When did you come to know that you have eternal life? Share that with your group.**
- ii. **What pressures do Christians, preachers and church leaders face to change the Christian message today?**

Read **1 John 1:1-4**.

1. Who is John writing about in verses 1-2? Why do you think John doesn't just use the name of this person?

Read **John 1:1-14**.

2. What similarities are there between the way John introduced Jesus in these verses and the opening verses of 1 John? What other ideas are introduced?
3. Who are the 'we' [or 'us'] in verses 1-2?
4. What does John say about the "Word of life"?
5. The act of God becoming human is called "the incarnation". Why does he have such an emphasis on seeing, hearing and touching? Why is the testimony of the apostles about the incarnation so important?

6. Do you think a literal incarnation is important? Do you think the historical facts of Jesus, the God-man, are worth fighting for? Are you willing and able to defend the incarnation when the identity of Jesus comes up in conversation?

7. Why does John proclaim the “Word of life” with his readers [v3-4]?

8. What do these verses tell us about Christian fellowship? What distinguishes friendship from Christian fellowship? How can we build authentic Christian fellowship?

9. Do you know the joy of fellowship with God? What can you do and say to help other people find this joy?

10. What do you think John means by his joy being ‘complete’ [v4]? In what sense should sharing truths about Jesus make our own joy complete?

11. In what way do these verses give us assurance of eternal life?
[Remember, that's a big part of why John is writing his letter, see 5:13]

Give thanks and pray

Thank God for the coming of Jesus Christ. Give thanks that his appearance is a verifiable event in history, and that this means we can have real confidence in him and his promise of eternal life.

Give thanks for the fellowship with fellow believers in Jesus Christ. Pray for each other by name that you will walk assured in Jesus Christ and you live together for him in 2025.

Ask God to help you grow in understanding and assurance of faith as you read and study 1 John.

Walk in Fellowship

Study 2 | 1 John 1:5 - 2:2

Main Idea: We can enjoy fellowship with God and each other by walking in the light and without sin because of Christ's reconciling work.

Intro

- i. A favourite Christian word we like use is, “fellowship”. What is it and what elements are needed to have healthy fellowship?
- ii. How does falsehood (in word or action) prevent fellowship?

The nature and danger of false claims to fellowship

Read **1 John: 1:5 – 2:2**

1. What are the three false claims that John is addressing. What might that look like in day to day life?
 - 1) v6-7 = *Claiming to have fellowship with God yet walking in the darkness*
 - 2) 8-9 = *Claiming to be without sin*
 - 3) 1:10-2:2 = *Claiming to have never sinned*

2. What current day examples can you think of that are 'false claims.'

3. How does John correct these claims?

4. How can we address, and take practical steps to avoid the false claims of our day?

Walking in the light or darkness

Re-Read 1 John 1:5-7

5. What does light refer to? What does darkness refer to?

***Dive deeper:** "Light" is frequently mentioned in the first half of John's gospel. In what ways does this better help us to understand the phrase here that "God is light" (see John 1:1-9, 3:16-21, 8:12, 12:35-46).*

6. What does it look like to walk in the light or darkness?

7. What types of darkness is tempting for us to walk in (consciously or subconsciously). In what ways do you see yourself walking in the light, and then in darkness?

Walking without sin

Read 1 John 1:8-2:2

8. What are the three elements John refers to about sin and how we are reconciled to God.

9. What does it mean that Jesus is our advocate and our 'atoning sacrifice' (propitiation)

10. In what ways might we "claim to be without sin/ have not sinned" ... or how can a weak view of sin affect our lives.

Walking in Fellowship

11. How might you use 2:1-2 to encourage and comfort a Christian who is feeling crippled by guilt and worried about their sin ... while also promoting us towards holiness and not continuing in sin?

12. Discuss this statement: *“Jesus was truly abandoned, so that you will only feel abandoned and know that God is still there. He is not going to fully abandon you, no matter what you have done wrong because of what Jesus Christ as done on the cross.”* – Tim Keller. How does it promote our fellowship with God.

13. Look back over this passage and discussion so far.
 - i) What gives you most assurance in your walk with Jesus?

 - ii) What steps do you need to change where and how you’re walking with Jesus and each other.

Give thanks and pray

Thank God that he sent Jesus to bring us the truth and to be both our advocate and atoning sacrifice for our sin (something we never could do).

Ask God to help us to hate and step out of darkness, and walk in the light.

Ask God to forgive you of your sin and thank him its possible and guaranteed through Christ.

Walk in Obedience

Study 3 – 1 John 2:3-17

Main Idea: Authentic saving faith leads to faithful obedience

Intro

In 1 John, three specific topics are repeated throughout the letter. The certainty that Jesus is the Christ, the importance of Christians loving one another, and the obedience of God's true children.

'Unlike many New Testament letters, the structure of 1 John is not linear. Rather, John's themes are interwoven with one another, as he circles around his big ideas from various perspectives. Reading 1 John is like climbing a spiral staircase and looking out various windows on the way up. As you climb the stairs, there is a sense in which you look out at the same view over and over again. But as you ascend the staircase, you get a slightly different, higher perspective of the view as you look out each window. So, it is with reading 1 John. Yes, John returns to several familiar topics throughout the letter. But as he does so, he adds a new truth to provide a fresh perspective. And it all leads to a stunning panorama at the end of the letter.' Rest Assured, 1 John, Matthias Media, p12

In this section John focusses on the importance of **walking in obedience** to Christ's commands, if we are authentic disciples.

- i. **In what areas of life, are you or other Christians, tempted to disobey God's commands and walk in the darkness? Where have you seen Christians fail in obedience?**

Read 1 John 2:3-6.

1. How can we be sure that we know Christ ['him']? How do these verses help us assess people who say: "I know God"?

2. What sort of commandments do you think John is referring to in these verses? Do these verses mean that Christians never sin? [Look back at the previous study]

3. John describes two different types of people who claim to know God in verses 4 -6. What test does he use to help ascertain the authenticity of the claim?

4. What does it mean to 'live as Jesus did' [NIV] or 'walk in the same way as he walked' [ESV]? Try to give some specific examples.

Read 1 John 2:7-11.

5. What is the [old and new] commandment that John refers to in verses 7-8? [See also John 13: 34-35; 2 John 5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:36-40]

6. In what sense is the command to love one another an old command? In what sense is the command to love one another a new command?

7. Why does John make hatred or love towards other Christians the test of true conversion?

8. What kind of behaviour characterizes people living in the light in contrast to those living in the darkness?

Read 1 John 2:12-14.

9. John often addresses his readers as 'dear children' [2:1, 18, 28], so the 'dear children' are all Christians. The 'fathers' are the older Christians, the 'young men' are the new generation who must take on the struggle to proclaim and live the truth.

List all the blessings that John's original readers [and we as Christians] enjoy as the children of God.

10. Why do you think John includes this list here?

Read 1 John 2:15-17.

11. What does John mean when he tells us not to love the world?

12. How does John describe the actions and attitudes of the world? [v16]

13. Identify some examples of these actions and attitudes that you see today.

14. Where can you see signs of worldliness in your life or the life of the church? What can you do to counter this negative influence?

15. Why is the love for the world so destructive for the Christian?

Give thanks and pray

Re-read 2:12-24. Use these verses to thank God for the blessings that are ours as Christians.

Pray for greater obedience to God. Pray about a particular area you may be struggling with.

Ask God to fill your mind with helpful ways of loving the other people in your church.

Walk in Truth

Study 4 | 2:18-27; 4:1-6

Main Idea: We walk in truth by discerning and avoiding antichrists, while simultaneously remaining in The Christ, Jesus.

Intro

- i. We hear all sorts of truth claims constantly; in the news or social media, at work, from family and friends and within ourselves. How do you work out if something is true or not?
- ii. Why is knowing the truth important, what are the consequences of getting it wrong (think through some different scenarios)?

Knowing and dealing with Antichrists

Read **1 John: 2:18-19, 4:1-6**

1. What is last hour and how do we know when it is?
2. John tells us there is more than one antichrist: Who are they? And, how can we test to know who they are?

3. What are some examples of 'antichrists' today and why would a person who "denies Jesus is Christ" actually be tempting for a Christian, in the first century and today?

4. How have you, or seen someone else, believed the teaching/ways of an antichrist?

The anointing we have and need from the "Holy One"

5. What is the "anointing from the Holy One" and what is the result of His anointing for us?

6. Why would John say we don't need teachers

Remaining in Jesus.

Dive Deeper: See John 15:1-11. How do Jesus' words help us to understand what it means to abide in him and why that's so important?

7. What indicators or signs can we use to see if you or another brother or sister is being “led astray” and therefore not “remaining in Him/ the Truth.”

8. How can we in practice, “remain in the Truth”

9. John writes “the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world”. Who are the two “ones”? How is this an encouragement in your daily life?

(1) God is greater than (2) the Devil. The Devil’s deceptive schemes can always be conquered by God and his word by the Spirit.

Give thanks and pray

Thank God that he reveals, and that we can know the truth, it’s not left up to chance or blind wondering.

Ask God to help us to discern what is false and not follow those people or teachings.

Ask God to continue to enable you to remain in Jesus and bear fruit in your life.

Walk in holiness

Study 5 – 1 John 2:28- 3:10

Main Idea: As children of God, we must reflect the family likeness

Intro

When God forgives us and saves us through the atoning work of Christ [2:1-2], he also makes us his children [3:1-2]. It is a wonderful privilege to be the children of God. But as children of God, in fellowship with other believers, we are called to reflect the family’s likeness and live holy and righteous lives. We are called to continue in fellowship with Christ so that we will be unashamed before him at his coming [2:28]

- i. **How are you like your parents, in appearance and character? In what ways are you becoming more like your parents as you grow older?**

Read 1 John 2:28-29.

1. What gives us confidence for the future?

2. Does doing what is right give us confidence before God?

Read **1 John 3:1-3**.

1. In verse 1, how does John describe Christians?
2. How does John feel as he writes these words? Why does he feel this way?
3. What are the results of becoming a child of God? [v2-3]
4. What practical difference does it make to remember that you are a child of God? And that you will share God's glory?
5. Make a list of words that describe God: loving, holy, merciful and so on. We are to be like our Father. Look at the list. How do you measure up?

Read **1 John 3:4-10**

6. What things did Jesus do when he first appeared [v5, 8b]?

7. How should we be acting now as a result of what Jesus did? [v6 -10]

8. In 1:8-2:1, John argued that we need to admit that we do sin and that we need Jesus as our advocate with the Father when we do sin. What does John mean when he says Christians no longer sin [v6,9].

9. Read Galatians 5:16-17. Try to think of times in your experience when you have felt the conflict between the Holy Spirit within you and your sinful nature.

10. List the differences between the children of God and the children of the devil.

11. How would you use these verses to challenge someone who claimed to be a Christian, but was unconcerned about sin in their life?

12. How would you use these verses with someone who wants to stop sinning?

Give Thanks and Pray

Use 1 John 3:1-2, Romans 8:15-17 and Galatians 4:1-7 to praise God for the privileges of being his children.

Pray for wisdom and spiritual power to walk in holiness reflecting the family likeness.

Walk in love

Study 6 – 1 John 3:11-19, 4:7-12 and 17-21

Main Idea: God is love, and those who belong to God will show the family likeness through expressing love for other believers in their actions

Introduction

The word *love* is used with different meanings in our society today. But generally, the word refers to what a person finds attractive or elicits a sense of pleasure and joy in them. Love, used this way, always seeks to satisfy the person's own needs/wants. However, John uses a word for love (*agape*) that places others as the focus, both initiating and giving at cost to the giver.

John, through this letter provides assessments, to make clear, who are genuine believers. So, the person who belongs to God will love because God lives in them; they cannot do anything less. In this study, the theme of love will be covered in three main sections.

Read 1 John 3:11-18

John contrasts those who oppose God, described as both belonging to the evil one (v.12) and being part of the world (v.13), with those who belong to the truth (v.19). In vs.11-15, John uses Cain as an example of one who opposes God. You can read about Cain in Genesis 4:1-12.

1. John contrasts Cain with Jesus Christ. What are the characteristics which reflect each?

2. Why do you think we are not to be surprised “if the world hates you” (v.13)? How does that make you feel? Why may you feel that way?

3. It can be easy to talk in theory about giving to those in need. So, to make it more practical John moves from “brothers” in v.16, to the singular “brother” in v.17. If genuine love shows itself in action, why may we make excuses to not to give to those in need? What can help us to be loving?

4. We don't have to look very far to find people in need, be it those we know or others throughout the world. What principles may help us to demonstrate God's love in us, while also being wise in our giving?

Read 1 John 4:7-12

John says that love comes from God (v.7) and God is love (v.8). So, it stands to reason that everyone who loves with selfless and sacrificial devotion, is part of God's family and reflects the family likeness.

5. Paul draws a negative implication in v.8 "whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love". How do we equate what John said with the many people around us who obviously love others, even though they do not know God?

6. John said in v.12 that while no one has seen God, if we love one another God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. Can someone be a Christian without loving others? Why or why not? Can a Christian love another believer that they don't like? How or why not?

7. In western society, the Christian faith is often seen as an individual relationship with God. Yet, this may subtly reinforce self-centredness because it focuses on me and my relationship with God. However, if love is seen in action, what are genuine needs you can contribute to in those around you, your home group, church or believers elsewhere? Be specific with at least one need.

Read 1 John 4:17-21

Here, John speaks not of God's love for us, but of our love for God. The evidence of our love for God growing will be seen in the confidence we have now in the light of coming judgment. Instead of being fearful (v.17) we are assured of our standing before God as his children. Our love for God will also be expressed in our love for other believers.

8. What is the dominant response you have when you think of Judgement Day? Why is it that fear and love cannot co-exist together (vs.17-18)?

9. John said that our love for God will be evidenced in our love for fellow believers. Do you enjoy your relationship with God, and yet have a barrier that stops you loving another believer? Or is there someone whom you try to avoid because you are intolerant of them or their idiosyncrasies.... In the light of God's commands, what will you do about this?

Give thanks and pray

Give thanks, that through Christ, you belong to God. But also pray to have an appreciation of all you have in Christ, and therefore any opportunity that you have to be generous.

Ask for God's strength to sacrifice your focus on self in order to love other believers who you don't like or find easy.

Ask, because of Christ's work in you, that your love for God would grow and you would not fear Judgement Day, but rather confidently look forward to it.

Walk in Confidence

Study 7 – 3:19-24; 4:13-18

Main Idea: We walk in confidence by knowing what God says about us, and applying that to everyday circumstances

Intro

If you were to die today, taken to the day of judgement, and you need to give a reason to get you into heaven, what would you say?

“This how we know...”

1. “***This how we know...***” has been a phrase used throughout the letter. From your current understanding (and perhaps memory from the previous studies) how would you answer the follow statements:

“This is how we know...” [The statement]	The reason for this confidence (your answer)
“we are in him”	
“it is the last hour”	
“who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are”	
“What love is”	

“that we belong to the truth”	
“that he lives in us”	
“you can recognise the Spirit of God.”	
“we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”	
“that we live in him and he in us”	
“that we love the children of God”	

2. Now complete the table using the bible references from 1 John and compare your answers

Reference	“This is how we know” [The statement]	The Bible’s reason for such confidence.
1 John 2:5	“we are in him”	
1 John 2:18	“it is the last hour”	
1 John 3:10	“who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are”	
1 John 3:16	“What love is”	
1 John 3:19	“that we belong to the truth”	
1 John 3:24	“that he lives in us”	

1 John 4:2	“you can recognise the Spirit of God.”	
1 John 4:6	“we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”	
1 John 4:13	“that we live in him and he in us”	
1 John 5:2	“that we love the children of God”	

This is how we know we Belong to the Truth

Read **1 John 3:19-24**

3. How can our hearts condemn us?

4. How can we set our hearts at rest?

5. John says we can “receive from him anything we ask” (v22). What is the reason we can ask for anything and what will shape what we ask for.

6. In v 23 John again reinforces God’s central command. Why does John continue to restate this in every so slightly different ways?

7. How does this build on our understanding of the impact of sin and holiness in our lives

8. In what ways is your heart more likely to condemn you or assure you? Whatever your tendency, how is this passage helpful to you?

This is how we know that we live in him and he is us

Read John 4:13-18

9. John tells us it's the giving and the presence of the Spirit within us which gives us confidence. But knowing whether we been "given the Spirit" can be a source of great uncertainty. From v14-16, how can we have confidence that the Spirit is in us.

10. The Bible teaches us to "fear God". So, what does John mean when he writes 'perfect love drives out fear'?

11. Having confidence in our walk is often most challenged when we are confronted with our fears and uncertainties.

a. What are fears in your life that you can bring to God so that you can walk in confidence.

b. Using the theology of 1 John, In your own words write out a statement and answer for "this is how I know xxxxxxxx" that might be most helpful to you.

Give thanks and pray.

Walk in faith

Study 8 – 1 John 5:1-21

Main Idea: By believing that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God we can be assured of eternal life.

Introduction

John has taught us many things regarding the Christian life in this letter. He has taught the importance of moral conduct, because anyone who claims to know God but does not obey his commandments is a liar. He has also taught us the importance of sound doctrine, because anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ, who came in the flesh, such a one is the Antichrist. Practical love is vital, because anyone who hates his brother, he is a murderer. Yet although these three things, conduct, doctrine and love are all vital components of Christian living, John has left the primary and fundamental characteristic of Christianity to the very last: 'Who is that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God'. The Bible says that we are repeatedly saved by faith. There is no issue of greater consequence than the question of whether or not we are believers.

- I. How does the truth of 'salvation by faith in Christ' liberate you and spur you on to live in confidence, victory and freedom?**

Read 1 John 5:1-5

1. Believing that 'Jesus is the Christ' shows that a person is born of God [v1]. Why is this true? [see 1 John 4:2]

Read **1 John 5:6-12**

The false teachers denied that Jesus had come in the flesh [4:2]. They taught that the divine Christ descended on Jesus at his baptism but left before his death on the cross. But John shows us that Jesus was divine before, during and after his baptism and the cross. He was God all the time. These are difficult verses with some debate on what it means that Jesus 'came by water and blood'.

The 'water' may be a reference to the voice of the Father at his baptism, while the 'blood' is a reference to his death on the cross. Jesus Christ died.

Or the 'water and the blood' may both refer to his death [see John 19:31-37]

The Spirit's testimony may be a reference to the Spirit descending on Jesus at his baptism [John 1:32-34]

7. How do the Spirit, the water and the blood testify about Jesus and refute the heresy [v6-9]?

8. We have noted that John's reason for writing his letter is to assure his readers of eternal life [5:13]. How do these verses especially, vv11-12, provide such an assurance?

9. What implications do these verses have for evangelism?

Read **1 John 5:13-21**

10. In these verses, John lists several things that he wants his readers to know with certainty. What are they?

Verse 13

Verse 14-15a

Verse 15b

Verse 18

Verse 19

Verse 20

11. Which of these truths stand out to you as especially important, or surprising or hard to believe?

12. What do you think John means by **'a sin that leads to death'** in verse 16?

13. John urges the believers to **'keep yourselves from idols' [v21]**. What do you think are particularly dangerous idols in our present culture and society? What are potential idols in your own life? What are some practical steps to keep ourselves from them?

Give thanks and pray

Give thanks to God for the amazing truths about Jesus Christ that you've discovered [or rediscovered] throughout this letter.

Give thank for the comfort you have received from 1 John and pray about the challenges you've received.

Notes/Prayer Points

Notes/Prayer Points
