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# 1John

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## Reason for the Book of 1John

John, one of the 12 apostles, wrote the book of **1John** to help us “know” (mentioned 40 times) and “abide in” (mentioned 21 times) the light, truth, love, and life of Christ.

The purpose of **1John** is to show Christians what their faith in Christ means and to give them tests to find out (know) if they have eternal life.

## How 1John Compares to John

**1John** is, in essence, a sequel to the Gospel of John. Notice the similarities and

differences between the two books (the way John introduces the books, the names of Jesus, the imagery, etc).

## Theme Verse

Note the theme of **1John** and note its impact on your confidence in Christ:

*1John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. NKJV*

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## Personal Reflection and Application

What type of sacrifices do you offer God? Are they the type of sacrifices that please Him? Read **Hebrews 13:15-16**, **Romans 12:1**, and **1John 3:16**

How can you have confidence in your relationship with God (**1John 2:5** and **1John 3:1**)?

Read **1John 5:12-13**. When it says, “he who has the Son has life,” what does this mean to **you personally**? Are you embracing the **life** that God has for you? The apostle continues by saying that we can **know** that we have eternal life. Do you have this assurance of salvation? If not, what is holding you back?

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

Without active ministry to fulfill needs of others, speaking of love is false (**1John 3:17-18**). In what ways do you and your small group fulfill the needs of others to demonstrate Christ’s love?

You can define blessedness as a heart at rest before God. Read What is the secret to blessedness (**1John 4:18**)?

To help us know what our faith means, John presents a series of comparisons. Discuss each of the following:

light vs. darkness	<a href="#">1John 1:5-1John 2:11</a>
love of God vs. love of the world	<a href="#">1John 2:12-17</a>
Christ vs. Antichrist	<a href="#">1John 2:18-28</a>
good works vs. evil works	<a href="#">1John 3</a>
leading of the Holy Spirit vs. the spirit of error	<a href="#">1John 4:1-6</a>
perfect love vs. pretending to love	<a href="#">1John 4:7-21</a>

[1John 5:3](#) says that, "...this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not **burdensome**." Is this always true? What are some of the commandments that might **feel** like they are burdensome to you? Discuss this with your group.

[1John 5:14-15](#) gives a powerful reminder of how we should view prayer. In particular, John says that "...if we ask anything according to His will, [God] hears us." What are the things that we should ask for in relation to God's will? In other words, according to this verse, how should your prayers look when you pray your daily prayers?

## Leadership Principles from 1John

### Where is Your Heart?

Where is your heart as a leader?

- Instead of loving yourself most, are you willing to love Christ best?
- What do you sacrifice for others ([1John 3:16](#))?
- Do you love others as Christ loves you ([1John 3:18](#))?

## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

01. Why John wrote the letter of 1John	04. What it means if a person does not love
02. The three stages of spiritual growth	05. How you can KNOW you have eternal life
03. How we can know we have the life and truth of God	