

“Children of God”

Children of God #4

INTRODUCTION

In his epistle, John addresses what it means for us to be God’s children. As believers we most likely consider ourselves God’s children, but what does that mean in terms of our responsibilities and blessings? And is there a way to identify someone who is a child of God? John helps us to answer these questions.

Ice Breaker (Optional): Which of your parents do you most closely resemble?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Continuing to Live in Christ

Q1. Read 1 John 2:28; John 15:5-11

In these passages refer to “abiding” several times. The Greek word for abide is *meno* meaning “to abide, continue, remain, or stay”. What, or who, are we to abide in, and what do we need abiding in us? How does Jesus tell us to abide in His love? (see John 15:10) What blessing can we expect when we abide as Jesus commands us to?

Showing Evidence of Spiritual Life

Q2. Read 1 John 2:29; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 5:22-23; James 2:14-17

What way has John given us to recognize those who are born of God in 1 John 2:29? We know that good deeds cannot produce salvation (Eph 2:8-9), but what will a dynamic faith look like in the real world? What “evidence” of faith is mentioned in the James and Galatians texts? Which of these would you most like to see increased in your own life?

Understanding We Are Aliens

Q3. Read 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Peter 2:11

God’s ways are unfamiliar to the unsaved world. Do you remember how strange the Bible sounded to you before you were saved? Why would the world see us as “aliens” according to 1 John 3:1? What are some of the ways you have felt like an “alien” in this world?

Having Increasing Power Over Sin

Q4. Read 1 John 3:4-9; Romans 6:3-7; James 1:13-16

None of us are perfect, but spiritual growth gives greater victory over sin. Do you feel that you have increasing power over sin? If patterns of sin in your life continue unchanged, what does 1 John 3:6 suggest is missing? The above verses are full of encouragement, that by the power of Christ living in you, you can be set free from sin (Romans 6:3-7) If you don’t see increasing victory over sin in your life, ask someone in your group to partner with you, and pray that you would be able to put to death the old habits and abide more in Christ.

Living in Obedience and Love

Q5. Read 1 John 3:10-11; John 13:34-35, Romans 12:9-10

The question underlying this section of scripture is “Where is your heart?” Are you growing in the areas of obedience and love? If so, your heart is likely committed to God and his purposes. What does Jesus clearly expect as evidence of discipleship (John 13:34-35?) What can you do to ensure that your love is genuine? (Rom 12:9)

WRAP-UP

Living as a child of God comes with responsibilities, but also with the blessings of victory over sin, fullness of joy, love of the father and a home in heaven, to name just a few. When we recognize and fulfill our responsibilities we will see evidence in our lives. The result will be our increased power over sin, a life of obedience to God and love for our brothers. But if we don’t see these changes in our lives we might need to return to our heavenly Father and renew our submission to and our alignment with him, as His children.

Memory Verse

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are....

1 John 3:1a ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: _____

Challenge:

Romans 12:10 tells us to “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” Find unique ways to honor members of your group this week. Maybe challenge them to try to outdo you!

Q1 1 John 2:28 ESV - 28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

Read John 15:5-11 in your Bible

Q2 1 John 2:29 ESV - 29 If you know that he [Jesus] is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

James 2:14-17 ESV - 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Q3 1 John 3:1-3 ESV - 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV - 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:11 NASB - 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Q4 Read 1 John 3:4-9 in your Bible

Romans 6:3-7 ESV - 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead

by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

James 1:13-16 ESV - 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully-grown brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

Q5 1 John 3:10-11 ESV - 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

John 13:34-35 ESV - 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Romans 12:9-10 ESV - 9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Prayers Con't: _____

