"LIVING IN THE LIGHT" Children of God #7

INTRODUCTION

When we began our series on 1 John, we considered what it means to walk in the light. During the course of our study we found that how we love and how we relate to others are integral parts of our walk. As we conclude this week we will consider how we can live in the light of God's love, and what it will take to complete our life's journey walking as Children of God.

Ice Breaker (Optional): What is the longest distance you have walked at one time?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Live in OBEDIENCE.

Q1. Read 1 John 5:1-3; John 15:10; Matthew 28:18-20

Throughout John's epistle one theme is clearly evident, we are to love God and love others. Look at how closely the love of God is tied to our love for other believers in 1 John 5:1-2. Obedience to God's commandments is also essential in our expression of love. What reassurance do we find at the conclusion of 1 John 5:3? What are some of the things in Matthew 28:18-20 that relieve the burden of keeping God's commandments? What are some things that can cause us to feel that keeping God's commandments are burdensome?

Live in VICTORY.

Q2. Read 1 John 5:4-5; 1 John 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:56-57; Romans 6:23

Key to our living as children of God is recognizing that we are already victorious. How does 1 John 5:4-5 explain the source of our victory? 1 Corinthians 15:56 tells us that if there were no sin, there would be no death. Man's transgression of the law (sin) gives death its lawful power (Romans 6:23). But what good news do we have in 1 Corinthians 15:57? Are there any areas of your life that you want to experience greater victory?

Live in HOPE.

Q3. Read 1 John 5:11-12; John 10:10

The hope of the believer is a "confident expectation of things to come." What is the hope we have that will help us stay the course (1 John 5:11-12)? The eternal life we have begins, not when we die, but when we are born again. Jesus describes that as having a full and abundant life. What do you feel makes a life "full and abundant"?

Live in CONFIDENCE.

Q4. Read 1 John 5:13-21; John 10:28; 1 John 5:14

In 1 John 5:13, as John closes his epistle, he tells us why it was written. What was his purpose? In the final verses he reassures the readers by telling them six times what "we know." As you read through this passage with your group, stop to recognize each thing that John included as things "we know". Which do you find gives you the most confidence in living as a child of God in the light of His love?

WRAP-UP

We are children of God, called to walk in the light of His love. To continue that walk throughout our lives we will need to live in obedience to his commandments, live in the victory over sin and death that Jesus has given us, recognize the hope of an abundant and full eternal life and place our confidence firmly in God's great and precious promises to us.

Memory Verse

light.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John5:13 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: Arrange your days this week so that you are experiencing a full and abundant life as a child of God living in His

Q1

1 John 5:1-3 ESV - 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

John 15:10 ESV - 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV - 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Q2

1 John 5:4-5 NKJV - 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Romans 6:23 ESV - 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 ESV - 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q3.

1 John 5:11-12 ESV - 11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 10:10 ESV - 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Q4 Read 1 John 5:13-21 in your Bible

John 10:28 ESV - 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Prayers con't