

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 15, 2005

Passage: 1 John 5:6-13

Memory Passage: 1 John 5:11-12

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:6.** What are the two claims that John makes regarding Jesus? Why does John claim that Jesus came, *not only* by water, but also by blood?
- (b) What did the Gnostics believe about the baptism of Jesus? How do these counter the claims of the Gnostics?
- (c) Read John 1:31-33. What testimony related to water might John be referring to? How did Jesus come “by” or “through” water?”
- (d) Consider Matthew 3:13-17. What did John tell Jesus? Why did Jesus say he needed to be baptized?
- (e) Another possibility for the water is found in John 3:3-6 (especially verse 5). If John refers to this, what testimony about Jesus is he confirming?
- (f) What do we know about the witness of the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:6; John 15:26; 16:13)?
- (g) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:6. Talk together about the baptism and the birth of Jesus. Why was *He* baptized? How was He born? What is so important about His birth? Why were both of these events essential in the life and ministry of Jesus? Give thanks for the faithfulness of Jesus in every area of life (Hebrews 3:1-6). Pray that each of you might also be faithful to the Lord in every way.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:7.** What witnesses did *the Father* bear about Jesus (Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 10:37-38; Matthew 27:54; Romans 1:4)?
- (b) What witness did *the Son* bear regarding himself (John 1:14; 2:19; 5:17)?
- (c) Read John 3:31-36. What did John say about the testimony of Jesus? Did people receive his testimony (John 3:32)?
- (d) How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus’ testimony about himself in John 8:13-19?
- (e) What witness did *the Spirit* give to Jesus (Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 12:28; John 16:13-15; John 15:26-27)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:7. Talk about the various ways that God testified to who Jesus was during His ministry on earth. What testimonies do you think would have been the most convincing? Read these as you talk about them. Why didn’t everyone receive these testimonies? Why is the role of the Spirit also essential? Pray for someone who needs to hear the testimony about Jesus. Pray that you might have an opportunity to share with this person this week.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:8-9.** What other witnesses does John mention in verse 8? How are they similar? How are they different?
- (b) Some suggest that the water and blood are both a reference to John 19:34-35. What are the differences? Is John referring to this incident or to something else? What testimony did the blood and water give in John 19?
- (c) What would his reference to the *blood* be? What if Jesus did not come to us through the blood? Why is the blood so important (Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:25; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:22)?
- (d) What is the significance of the blood according to 1 John 1:7, and 4:17? How did the Gnostic beliefs deny this?
- (e) Read Romans 8:9-16 and Galatians 4:4-6. What do these tell us about the relationship of the believer to the Holy Spirit? What kind of assurance does the Spirit give to us? What witness does the Spirit continue to give regarding Jesus as the Christ?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:8-9. What does the cross tell us about who Jesus is and what He did? Is the blood essential? What would happen to our salvation if Jesus was not truly man? Spend time thanking God for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:9-10.** What is the basic requirement regarding accepting the testimony of a person (Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16)?
- (b) What does John say that the non-believer is saying regarding God when he refuses to trust Christ?
- (c) What do Romans 3:4, Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18 tell us about the nature of God?
- (d) What is God’s testimony regarding *who* is a believer (1 John 5:1; 5:11; John 3:16)? What kind of witness does the believer have within himself? When does he get this witness?
- (e) What is the attitude of a believer regarding God’s testimony (John 6:67-69)? How is this an evidence of salvation (Romans 8:16)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:9-10. Talk about testimonies. What are they? When are they used? How can we know that people are telling the truth? How can we know that God is telling the truth regarding the witness He has given about Jesus? Why do people refuse this truth? Pray for someone that refuses to believe in Jesus.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:11-13.** Review the reasons that John has written this letter (1 John 1:5; 2:1; 5:13). What is the final reason that he mentions in these verses?
- (b) Is it possible to be a Christian and not have assurance? What does 1 John 5:13 indicate? What effect does our assurance have on our walk (1 John 5:13)?
- (c) What does John say is true of everyone that has the Son? What does it mean to “have the Son?” Who gives us eternal life (1 John 5:11)? What does this remind us about the work of salvation?
- (d) What is the promise that God has given to all who believe (John 1:12; 3:15-16; 3:36; 5:24; 6:40; 6:47; 10:28; 17:2-3; Titus 1:2)?
- (e) What about those who do not have the Son (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:12; John 3:36)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:11-13 together. Talk about the difference between assurance and salvation. Can a person be saved and not be sure? What should be the basis for our assurance? Are there other factors for assurance? Review the ones we have seen in 1 John. What is the most important issue for assurance? Pray together for someone that has not yet accepted Christ.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. What are the ways in which God has given us clear testimony about Jesus? Make a list of these ways. Why has God given so many evidences? What ways do we have these testimonies still today? Pray that you might be bold in telling others about the gift of eternal life that is available only through Jesus.

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A Sure Thing: The Testimony of God
“And this is the testimony, that God has given us eternal life.”