

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 8, 2005

Passage: 1 John 5:1-5

Memory Passage: 1 John 5:4

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 4:20-5:1.** What is John's concern at the end of chapter 4? What might someone say to excuse himself from this obligation? Consider a similar objection in Luke 10:25-29.
- (b) What question had the lawyer raised? What objection did he raise to Jesus' reply? In Luke 10:30-37, how does the parable answer this objection?
- (c) *Who* does John say we are to consider to be "born of God?" Does this remove any qualifiers as to *who* we should love?
- (d) What three tests of true believers have we seen in 1 John? Where does John mention each of these in chapter 5:1-5?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 10:25-37. Talk together about who your neighbor is. Why did Jesus tell this parable? Read Galatians 6:10. Is there a difference between the way we love Christians and non-Christians? Why does *each* kind of love matter? Why is it especially important that we love Christians (John 13:34-35; 17:21)? Give thanks together for the family of God.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:1.** *How* is a person born of God (1 John 5:1; Acts 8:37; Acts 16:31)? What is the basic essential for being a believer?
- (b) What does the idea of being "born" of God indicate about the nature of salvation (John 1:12-13; 3:3-6)?
- (c) What does God use to bring people to faith (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 10:17)? What must a person do to be saved (Acts 16:31; John 6:28-29)?
- (d) *Who* should we love and *why* according to 1 John 5:1?
- (e) Should we love other believers only when they are obedient to God? What is to be the basis of our love for one another? What is the basis of God's love for us?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:1 and Acts 16:11-34. Talk about what makes a person a believer. Consider the examples in Acts 16; Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Can we see this in these two examples? Pray for someone who does not know Christ, that God would open their heart to the gospel as He did Lydia.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:2-3.** What is unusual about the way John begins verse 2? How can keeping the commandments be loving to other believers?
- (b) What does John say about these commandments? Read Matthew 24:3 and Luke 11:46. How did Jesus describe commands of the scribes and Pharisees?
- (c) What did Jesus say about his own commandments in Matthew 11:28-30? Can you see both the element of difficulty and yet the lack of a burden in Jesus' commandments? What makes this difference between his and the Pharisees?
- (d) What warning did Paul give in Galatians 5:1? How can we be faithful to keep His commandments and yet not have them be burdens?
- (e) How did John describe these commandments in 1 John 3:22? Compare this with what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:9 and Romans 14:28? How did Jesus describe his own obedience in John 8:29?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:2-3 and Matthew 11:28-30. Talk about obedience. Do you sometimes feel that it is burden? When do you feel that way? Are there other times that obedience is not a burden? What is the difference? What kind of obedience does God want? Pray that each of you might desire to always be found pleasing to the Lord.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:2-3.** How is our obedience to His commandments tied to our love for one another?
- (b) What do Philippians 2:3-4 and Hebrews 13:16 tell us about how we obey God by loving one another?
- (c) Read Romans 15:1-7. On what basis has Christ received us? What should be our goal (vs. 2)?
- (d) Can we love God (John 15:9-10) and not love fellow believers (1 John 4:20-21)? What is inconsistent about such a love?
- (e) *Family:* Read Philippians 2:1-4, 5-11. Talk about Jesus' love for us. How is it a model for our love for each other? Are there any unsettled disagreements in your family? What should we do about them? Pray that we might always forgive one another.

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

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:4-5.** What term does John mention three (3) times in these two verses?
- (b) What does John tell us “overcomes the world?” Why does he say “whatever” in verse 4 rather than “whoever?”
- (c) How has our faith already overcome the world (consider 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Luke 8:5, 12)? How does faith continue to be our means of victory (Galatians 2:20)?
- (d) What is the basis for our overcoming the world (John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Revelation 12:11)? What does Jesus say about himself in Matthew 12:20? How is this an encouragement to struggling believers?
- (e) Make a list of the promises to all who overcome from Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, and 21.
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:4-5 and Revelation 12:11. Discuss Christian victory. How do we have victory over the world? How did Jesus win the victory for us? How can we live in victory now? Pray that each of you may live in victory by not giving in to the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. What is the victorious life all about? How has this victory been won? What is your attitude toward the commandments of God? How can we have the right attitude about obedience? Pray that each of you might walk in obedience and please God in everything you do.

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The Victorious Life

“And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.”