

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 6, 2005

Passage: 1 John 2:12-15

Memory Passage: 2 Peter 3:18

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 2:12-15.** What three groups does John address? Make a list of these and what he is saying to each one.
- (b) Who is the first group that John addresses? Where else in this epistle does John use this term?
- (c) Why do you think he uses this term first (Matthew 18:3; 19:13)? What does this term indicate (John 1:12; Galatians 4:6)?
- (d) How did Jesus refer to his disciples in John 13:33-35? How is this connected to what you have learned in 1 John 2:7-11? What did Jesus say regarding these “little children” in Mark 9:37? How should this affect the way we treat one another in the Body of Christ?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 John 2:12-15, John 1:12, and Matthew 19:13. Talk together about what it means to be a “child of God.” What are the best things about being a child? Are any of these things related to becoming a child spiritually? Thank God for the gift of eternal life and for the fact that all who believe are now part of His family.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:12-13.** Why does John say he writes to “little children?” What is required for a person to be a child of God? How does understanding this affect one’s assurance of salvation? How many works, deeds, or fruits are required for one to be sure of salvation?
- (b) According to 1 John 2:12, *why* has he forgiven their sins? What do these verses tell us about God and His forgiveness (Micah 7:18; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 14:7; Psalm 25:11; and 79:8)?
- (c) Why does God save anyone (Psalm 106:8)? What does this tell us about our worthiness to be saved?
- (d) How should our understanding of His forgiveness of us affect our love for others (Ephesians 4:30)? Is there anyone that you need to forgive and love just as Christ has you?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 John 2:12 again along with Psalm 106:1-8. What does this Psalm tell us about our sin and God’s forgiveness? Read Psalm 106:13-25. What happened when the people forgot what God had done for them? Think together about what God has done for you and your family. Recount His blessings and pray thanking Him for all His kindness to you as His children.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:13-14.** What is the reason that John says he writes to the “fathers?” How is this similar to what he writes to “little children?” How is John’s emphasis on “fathers” different from his confidence for “children?”
- (b) How is this both the foundation of the Christian life and the goal of the Christian life (John 17:3 and Philippians 3:10)?
- (c) What does the idea of “fathers” convey? In what ways might someone be considered a “father” spiritually (Galatians 4:19; 1 Corinthians 4:14-15)?
- (d) What term does John use to describe himself in 2 John 1 and 3 John 1? What was his greatest concern for his “children” (3 John 4)?
- (e) Read Hebrews 13:7, 17 and 1 Peter 5:5. What advice is given about those in leadership? Why? How is this similar to John’s concern?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:7, 17 and 1 Peter 5:1-5. Talk about the purpose and qualifications of elders. Why do we have elders? What should be the way we respond to our elders? What happens when we don’t respond properly to our leaders? Pray for your church leaders today asking God to help them to be godly and loving in leadership.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 John 2:13-14.** What are the three reasons that John says he writes to the “young men?”
- (b) What does John tell his readers about the enemy in 5:19? What is he getting ready to tell them in 2:15-17? Why would it be essential that they know their position related to this enemy?
- (c) How have they become strong and able to overcome the enemy? What does John assure his readers of in 1 John 5:4-5? How does John say believers will overcome the enemy in the end times in Revelation 12:11?
- (d) What does it mean for the Word of God to “abide” in you? Consider the following verses: Ephesians 6:17; Acts 20:32.
- (e) What can happen to believers who are not well-grounded according to Ephesians 4:14?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 John 5:4-5 and Revelation 12:11. Talk about how the enemy attacks believers and how believers can overcome him. How does our “faith” give us the victory? What are some other ways we overcome him? Pray for spiritual protection and victory in spiritual battles and temptations.

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

- (a) **Read 2 Peter 3:14-18.** What does Peter assume is necessary for all believers (vs. 18)? What does he warn them against falling from in verse 17? Is it salvation or something else? How does this relate to assurance?
- (b) Read verses 14-16 carefully: What two things does he encourage them to do in these verses? *Whose* “longsuffering” is salvation according to verse 15? What does this tell us about assurance and salvation?
- (c) Read Hebrews 5:12-14. What is he encouraging every believer to do? According to these verses, how does one grow to this point?
- (d) Read Colossians 2:6-7; 3:16-17. What enables a person to grow in faith? How is this seen about the “young men” in 1 John 2:13-14?
- (e) Read Romans 12:1-2. How is a person “transformed” according to these verses? How is this similar to what we have seen in the other verses we have read?
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Peter 3:14-18 and Hebrews 5:12-14. Talk together about how a person grows to maturity as a Christian. Are there different levels of Christian maturity? What is the main reason for this difference? Pray for each person, that they would have a love for God’s Word and a desire to grow in His knowledge and grace.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read the passage together and talk about why people are at different levels of maturity spiritually. What do these verses tell us is the minimum for being a Christian? How should this be encouraging? What does this passage tell you is the main reason for spiritual maturity? Pray that God’s Word might help people to grow as it is taught tomorrow.

DATE: February 6, 2005

PASSAGE: 1 John 2:12-15

Growing in the Lord

“But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”