

Shadow Mountain Women Summer Study 2021

The book of First John

WEEK 3: First John Chapter 3

STUDY REMINDERS:

To enrich your study, use a hard copy Bible or print out the chapter so you can underline, circle, write down a note, etc.

As you read and/or listen to this chapter, do so slowly, thinking, praying to understand, to remember what you read. Pray for Christ-like change in your life.

STUDY GUIDE (bookmark) before you read the chapter:

1. Prepare

- a. Humbly pray before and after you read asking the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- b. Decide what to observe before reading.

2. Read it – OBSERVE and learn from:

- a. The people and places
- b. Key words and repeating words/phrases
- c. Statements about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
- d. The main points, what is being said and why?
- e. What can I apply to my life?

3. Think it – MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE A daily mini-memory verse (1-5 words) OR a weekly verse(s).

4. Think it – MEDITATE on the WORD, what it's saying, why. Pray to live more and more Christ-like.

5. Talk it - Be intentional to talk about it with family, friends, a group, etc. and LIVE IT!

Building Blocks

1. John mentions sin a lot, equating it to evil. He repeats God's love a lot! To help us understand John's passion for these subjects, let's picture the culture of John's era when he wrote this book. The destruction of Jerusalem happened approximately 15-20 years prior. Angry, hurting and frustrated people had become refugees. Pagan culture and satanic influence were rampant with horrific perversion and sensual sin. Injustice, slavery, bondage, and persecution of Christians continued, not to mention cultural and ethnic clashing, all under the umbrella of the brutal Roman Empire. Sin and evil were a problem! They needed God's love! Ahhh, just like every human era, including ours!
2. John gives us a peek into problems within the church people, whom he wrote, and the issues they were facing.
 - a. A world that does not know Christ Jesus (vs 1)
 - b. Feeling impure (vs 3)
 - c. The works of the devil/Sin (vs 8)
 - d. Not practicing righteousness (vs 10)
 - e. The world (people) hating you (vs 13)
 - f. Hatred toward others (vs 15)

- g. Shutting up one's heart to the needs of others (vs 17)
 - h. Talking about Christ's love but not acting on it (vs 18)
3. Unifying the people of the early church was no easy task, yet we continue to need John's message to unify us as believers, living through Christ's love and power over sin (verses 1, 11, 23).

Reading Tips

1. John repeatedly tells us what we are to "*know*". Carefully note, perhaps underline, or list, how he uses the word "*know*", what he wants us "*to know*".
2. Observe the continual emphasis on the importance of God's love contrasted with sin and the "evil one."
3. Note how believers are labeled...Children of God, beloved, born of God, of the truth, reassured, abiding in Him! (verses 1, 2, 9,19 ,24)

Read and Think Questions

Use actual words from the chapter as much as possible to answer these questions.

1. In verse one, what has been given to us?

What is the result?

2. According to the second half of verse one, why doesn't the world know us as Christ followers?

3. Adam and Eve learned quickly the problems caused by sin. This included their family life, specifically heartbreak caused by their first son Cain.

What did Cain do?

Who was Cain "*of*", the one who influenced his life?

How is Cain described?

What can we learn from Cain's life? (verses 11-12)

4. John spoke of God's commandments in chapter 2 and again speaks of them in this chapter.

- a. According to verse 23, what is the Lord's commandment?
- b. According to verses 22-24, what happens when a believer keeps His commandments?

5. Look again at verse 24. How can we know God abides in us?

Review and think about 1John chapter 3. Choose a verse(s) you can think about, perhaps a mini-memory verse that can prompt recall and meditation of what you read. Meditate on this chapter. These are steps to applying God's love "that your joy may full" (1 John 1:4). **Now, prayerfully evaluate, what are you to work on, apply, do? Be sure to talk about this, and live it out.**