

Shadow Mountain Women Summer Study 2021

The book of First John

WEEK 4: First John Chapter 4

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, 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. Discerning truth from falsehood was a problem when John wrote this, just like it is now. John reminds us to test the spirits, in other words what teachers' "prophets" (voices around us) are saying. Accurate, teaching/information must align with who Jesus Christ is, the Son of God, abide in His truth. We must remember that the world, apart from Christ, defaults to being "anti-Christ," against Christ (verses 1-3).
2. Remember the world promotes the "spirit of error," and but God promotes "the spirit of truth." There are two groups of people, those who are "of the world," and those who know Christ "is greater than he who is in the world" (verses 4-6).
3. John continues the solid theme of love in this chapter because it is the signature of knowing Christ.

Reading Tips

1. This chapter really could begin with the last verse of John 3, which is verse 24.
2. Observing keywords can deepen Bible study time. Keywords in this chapter include: Spirit(s), false, world, true, abide, love, and know. Be sure to note other keywords/phrases that you see.
3. Verse 17 and 18 are deeply grounded in the concept of God's love for us and abiding in Him. The "perfection" refers to completeness, which we are as we abide in God's love. The believer does not have to fear torment on the day of judgment when he/she stands before God. Believers can stand before God with clean hearts because perfected love, complete with confession and forgiveness through Christ deletes this fear.

Read and Think Questions

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

1. Re-read verses 1 through 6.
 - What two types of spirit are discussed?
 - According to these verses, how is each kind of spirit described? (Include people, places, statements about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit).
2. The last phrase of verse 3 makes a reference to time with the word "now." What important truths are we to learn from verse 3?
 - How do you see these truths evident today?
3. According to verses 12 and 13, what is the result of loving one another?
 - What can we **KNOW**?
4. Re-read verses 15 through 21, then list phrases about "abiding" and "love".
5. According to this passage, what negatives can arise when living outside of God's love?
 - What are the positives of abiding in God's love?
 - Are you abiding in God's love? Through faith you can confess your sin to Jesus Christ, the risen Savior, asking Him to be in charge of your life.

6. How should abiding in Christ affect your life past, present, and future?

Review and think about 1John chapter 4. 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 you are to work on, apply, do? Be sure to talk about this and live it out.**