

# Shadow Mountain Women Summer Study 2021

## The book of First John

### WEEK 2: First John Chapter 2

#### 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, group, etc. and **LIVE IT!**

### Building Blocks

1. It is believed the Apostle John was elderly when he wrote this book, meaning the majority of the recipients were much younger than him. His opening line "my little children" is a term of endearment, most likely in the context of his advanced years and pastoral love for those in the churches that received this letter.
2. Keep in mind the setting of this book was an ancient era when many were silenced, not to be heard...women, children, aliens, slaves, those living in fear. This greatly magnifies the beautiful message of verse one. Jesus speaks up for His children. He is our Advocate before God the Father. We can be "in Him" and know His love! (verse 5)
3. The common understanding of propitiation (verse 2) included the Greek's usage, "appeasing the anger of the gods." In that era of pagan culture, it was a double-joy message! Through Jesus there is no reason to fear pagan gods because they are false gods. But most important, to know Jesus is our propitiation means we can be free from sin thus there is no sin-induced anger from God. Jesus bridges the gap of sin so we can know unconditional love from God the Father!

## Reading Tips

1. Do not overlook the significance of sin. In our day and age sin is not a politically correct term, but in God's economy it is. John teaches God's view of sin and that we can deal with it through Jesus.
2. Reference to the old and new commandment are parallel. In (verse 7-9) The old commandment references the Old Testament, which includes belief in a powerful God known through His laws. The new commandment is not about the law's rules and rituals, but about faith in Jesus through whom we can know God, have true light, and abide in Him.
3. In verses 12-14, in reference to different age brackets of little children, fathers, and young men is best understood as spiritual maturity levels. For instance, "young men" represent those who are strong in the Lord and experience victory in overcoming.

## Read and Think Questions

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

1. Re-read verse 1. Why did John write to these believers?
2. Jesus took care of sin for the whole world (verse 2, 12) and we know God loves the world (John 3:16). So, how can you explain 1 John 2:15 in which we read "love not the world"?
3. Hating someone is sin. In verse 11, what four things are we to learn and remember about hatred?
  - What does verse 10 teach us about those who love others?
  - If hatred is something you're dealing with, apply God's love by asking and receiving forgiveness, and overcome it! (verses 12-14)
4. Let's look at two key words, "*know*" and "*keep*". Write out verses 3-5, then circle the word "*know*" and underline the word "*keep*".
  - a. According to these verses, what can we *know*?
  - b. According to these verses, what are we to *keep*?
  - c. What is the wonderful result of *knowing* and *keeping* these things?

5. *ABIDING* in Christ, thus becoming more Christ-like, is an important goal as a believer. Re-read the following verses and write down what we are to learn about *ABIDING*:
- a. Verses 5-6
  - b. Verses 9-10
  - c. Verse 14
  - d. Verse 28

Review and think about 1 John chapter 2. 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, and do? Be sure to talk about this and live it out.