That You May Know: The First Epistle of John

New Authority

1 JOHN 2:1-6; 3:1-3

Week of October 25, 2026

CORE TRUTH

Jesus gives us a new identity as God's children and a new way of life shaped by his love and authority.

WELCOME to remind us why we're here

Spend about 5 minutes here.

Mission – To become more like Jesus - together.

Vision – We work out our salvation side-by-side–with honesty, humility, and hope. We walk with one another, not just to talk about Jesus, but to be transformed by him. (Philippians 2:12-13)

Guidelines – Our Group Guidelines help us live out our mission and vision with kindness and humility together. We encourage you to read and discuss the guidelines together regularly–they can be found on the last page.

HEAD to help us examine what the word shows and *let in* what's true.

Spend about 10 minutes here.

- What word, phrase, or detail stands out to you in this passage?
- Why do you think John reminds believers that Jesus is our advocate before calling them to obedience?

HEART to help us wrestle with what we believe and *be with* each other in it.

Spend about 30 minutes here.

- What most often motivates your obedience to God: love and gratitude, fear of disappointing him, a desire to feel good about yourself, etc.?
- John says we are God's children now. What makes it difficult for you to fully believe and rest in that identity?
- Where do you find yourself wanting the comfort of Jesus' forgiveness without the challenge of following him?

HANDS to help us bring the truth into our lives and *go out* into the world with the Holy Spirit.

Spend about 15 minutes here.

- Jesus has secured our place as God's beloved children. What would it look like to live more fully in the freedom of that this week?
- Read Hebrews 4:14-16 below and give space for a time of prayer as a group in response:

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

LEADER RESOURCES

Weekly Leader Video • Bible Project John Pt 2 • Why The Gospel of John is Special • Tim Keller John Podcasts

NEXT WEEK'S PASSAGE

1 John 3:11-18; 4:7-5:5

GROUPS

That You May Know: The First Epistle of John

New Authority

1 JOHN 2:1-6; 3:1-3

Week of October 25, 2026

CORE TRUTH

Jesus gives us a new identity as God's children and a new way of life shaped by his love and authority.

SETTING THE SCENE

John reminds believers that even when we sin, Jesus stands as our advocate before the Father. Through his sacrifice, we are made right with God. And knowing Jesus changes how we live, leading us to follow his word and walk in obedience. But our obedience does not earn God's love – we obey because we are already his beloved children.

SCRIPTURE

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you
so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we
have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the
righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and
not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole
world. 3 And by this we know that we have come
to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4
Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his
commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,
5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love
of God is perfected. By this we may know that we
are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to
walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us,
that we should be called children of God; and so
we are. The reason why the world does not know
us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are
God's children now, and what we will be has not yet
appeared; but we know that when he appearsa we
shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3
And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself
as he is pure.

GROUPS

HEAD

to help us examine what the word shows and *let in* what's true.

- What word, phrase, or detail stands out to you in this passage?
- Why do you think John reminds believers that Jesus is our advocate before calling them to obedience?

HEART

to help us wrestle with what we believe and *be with* each other in it.

- What most often motivates your obedience to God: love and gratitude, fear of disappointing him, a desire to feel good about yourself, etc.?
- John says we are God's children now. What makes it difficult for you to fully believe and rest in that identity?
- Where do you find yourself wanting the comfort of Jesus' forgiveness without the challenge of following him?

HANDS

to help us bring the truth into our lives and *go out* into the world with the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus has secured our place as God's beloved children. What would it look like to live more fully in the freedom of that this week?
- Read Hebrews 4:14-16 below and give space for a time of prayer as a group in response:

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after someone shares gives them a true chance to finish. A Pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** Allowing silence in the group provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, gather their thoughts in order to share, and genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

If you need childcare reimbursement please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. You must submit within 30 days of attending group.