



1 JOHN

LIGHT • LIFE • LOVE

STUDIES 5-6

LEADER'S
NOTES

Term Outline

Sunday	Text	Title
20 th July	1:1-4	Light, Life & Love
27 th July	1:5-2:2	Cleansed by the Light
3 rd August	2:3-14	Walk in the Light
10 th August	2:15-27	Do not love the World
17 th August	2:28-3:12	Does what we do Matter?
24 th August	3:13-24	Love one another
<i>25th August Christianity Explored starts</i>		
31 st August	4:1-6	Hear God's Spirit
7 th September	4:7-21	God is Love
14 th September	5:1-12	Born of Love to Love
<i>14th September - GG Leaders meeting on Sunday at 11:50am</i>		
21 st September	5:13-21	Certain Life

Week 5 Sermon Notes: Does what we do matter?

1 John 2:28-3:12

Something that struck me from God's word to share with GG...

Week 5 Does what we do matter?

1 John 2:28-3:12

Aim: To rejoice in the lavish love of God that has made us his children. To see the huge divide of family (or kingdom) between we who are God's children and the world and its implications. To know God sees us now through Jesus, righteous before him, and in light of that love and practicing righteousness, while casting off the 'I know better' works of the devil.

Getting Started:

Share an occasion where you were struck by the family likeness between a child and their parent?

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read 1 John 2:28-3:12

Notice each time the language of being children and childbirth is used.

What is John saying about who we are?

2:28 'children',

2:29 'born of him',

3:1,2 'children of God',

3:7 'children'

3:9 'born of God', 'God's seed remains in them', 'born of God',

3:9 'children of the devil'

3:10 'children of God', 'God's child'

We have not only been rescued by God but welcomed into his family, with all of the privilege, access and inheritance that comes with such a family relationship with the Lord over all

In 1 John 2:28-3:3

What confidence does this identity give us now and for the future, before God and before the world?

Before God - It's ours now – 'that is what we are' – and even though we and everyone else doesn't see it yet because 'what we will be has not yet been made known' when Christ appears everyone will see him and those of us who are his.

Before the world - Even when the world in its schemes denies Jesus or pressures us to do so, we know to expect that – because v1b the world didn't know Jesus (recognise, depend on and have a relationship of peace and rest) – and in the same way it won't know us. Nonetheless, we can be confident God and our relationship with him will prevail.

In 1 John 3:4-12

What distinctions does John describe between the children of God and the children of the devil (Use the table below)

Children of God	Children of the Devil
<i>V5 no longer 'keep on sinning'</i>	<i>V5 continues to sin</i>
<i>V7 do what is right, 'practicing righteous' following Jesus' lead, as he is righteous</i>	<i>V8 does what is sinful, 'practicing sin', following the devil's lead, as he has always been a sinner</i>
<i>V9 does not continue to practice sin, cannot, because born of God</i>	<i>V10 does not do what is right, does not love their brother or sister in Christ</i>

How are your understandings of both righteousness and sin shaped and deepened here?

Sin is lawlessness, choosing our own way, taking an 'I know better' attitude to God and others despite their roles and responsibilities.

[The next part may come up here or in the next question, they overlap somewhat]

Righteousness is revealed and understood in who Jesus is and how he acts. – v5 in him is no sin, v4 & v8 and he came to take away our sins and

destroy the devil's work (which is promoting the practice of sin, with all its terrible consequences)

Why is God saying this?

How has Jesus moved us from being children of the devil to children of God? How does God see us now in him?

When God looks at us (who have believed in the Son) he sees us through Jesus, so we are now without sin, purified and righteous.

This has happened because in v5 in Jesus is no sin, and in v4 & v8 he came to take away our sins and destroy the devil's work, freeing us from the consequences of sin and the enslavement to 'keep on sinning'

Now we follow the pattern of who we are, that is, the one to whom we belong.

How may we be strengthened and encouraged by God's word, even as we still commit sins but do not 'keep on sinning' (see also already in 1:8 – 2:2)?

God understands our situation and the challenges of life now – of the world, the flesh and the devil – but encourages us that he has overcome them all, even if their effects aren't completely wrapped up yet.

He tells and reminds us we are his children – it's who we are now. And in the future, we will be seen by everyone as his children. We're not going to stop being his children. Already we see the love of God lavished upon us through Jesus' sacrifice and the privilege of being his children.

God's word here is not only a warning to us but his power to keep us practicing righteousness and not sin. But when we sin, he assures us as his children that we may come before him, confessing our sin, and continue in the forgiveness that is already ours.

In what ways might you be challenged today: to pursue righteousness, or confess sin; that you are like Jesus, or might long to be more like him?

Consider your own response and offering it as an example to help others. The question is intended as an encouragement above all, to consider how

God is growing us in the likeness of Jesus, in our love of God and love of others, and in having our hearts shaped by his heart.

It's a godly desire to be more like Jesus without necessarily beating ourselves up – we'll see in a later week the way in which this leads us to prayer.

It's also godly to recognise the reality that we still sin even as we have left the realm of those who 'keep on sinning'

How do you feel about the divide described between knowing God, and the world not knowing you? And your experience of it?

It can be really hard. Our feelings may well move around between confidence and doubt.

The world often seems (=appears even when it's not true) to have the upper hand, the unrighteous prosper, God's children may appear insignificant, ineffectual in their practice of righteousness, even sidelined (like our culture promoting religion and faith as 'a private matter') and attacked (being cancelled for not affirming what God deplores as evil is good, or as good is evil), whether blatantly or subtly. Yet, as we have covered, God's word in John is a soothing balm.

Prayer Starters

- Thank God he didn't just love us through forgiveness, but into his family
- Pray that by God's Spirit at work what we think, say and do may reflect the one to whose family we belong
- Pray for the Spirit's insight into those things we should do that we do not, and those things we should not that we do

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Share something you've read or listened to that you've found helpful for 'remaining in Jesus' that others may benefit from.

Are there any people I should follow up this week?

Week 6 Sermon Notes: Love one another
1 John 3:13-24

Something that struck me from God's word to share with GG...

Week 6: Love one another

1 John 3:11-24

Aim: To know that love for our brothers and sisters in Christ reflects we are children of God. We have the family likeness and are in the family business. We love whom God has loved. We know exactly what love is too – it arrived on the scene when Jesus laid down his life so we could live. So too we lay down our lives and putting ourselves first to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. The alternative, from which we have come, takes life and reveals those who are not children of God.

Getting Started:

What are some of the different ways you hear people use the word 'love'?

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read 1 John 3:10-18

Describe the divide between the children of God and the children of the devil (vv10-15).

There are a bunch of contrasts here and you could discuss it in several ways. I've divided it up into what we learn about each. It's probably easier to discuss by doing 'children of the devil' first because of the way the contrasts are working.

Children of Devil: v10 don't do what is right, doesn't love brother or sister; v12 murderers like Cain before them to silence the shame and guilt of the contrast with the righteous; v13 hate children of God; v14 do not love, remain in death; v15 hate brothers & sisters, murderer, no eternal life in them

Children of God: v11 love one another; v12 righteous actions hated; hated by world; v14 passed from death to life, and know it because love each other

How does Jesus' death on the cross show us what love is? What does it look like to 'know' love, and not 'know' it?

He laid down his life for us. He didn't take life (hating/murdering like Cain and the world) but gave his life so we might live!

Your group might flesh that out in more detail wrt John's letter, or the wider context of God's rule, sin, judgement and the gift of forgiveness

Knowing it - looks like – we lay down our lives for our brothers & sisters; meeting their needs: physical is mentioned here but it's not limited to that, also relational, and all shaped by spiritual (knowing God is God's greatest good for any person above all 'goods').

It's about humility which places the other person and their needs before our own. We do hard things for the sake of God's children because he loves them as he loves us.

Not knowing it - looks like – looking after ourselves first, giving lip service to love but not acting on it, hating others

Love and hatred are more than feelings/emotions in God's word, they're actions.

Read 1 John 3:19-24

As we love in deed and truth, what impact does it have on us, and our prayers?

V19-20 We know we have peace with God – we are at rest in his presence – because he is greater – more powerful - than our sin which might persuade us to despair of our forgiveness and rest in him.

V21-22 So we know we are not condemned by God, have confidence before him, have our hearts shaped by his and ask him to do those things that he delights to do, and we will receive them!

How should we understand the interplay of our hearts, the commandments, love and living in him?

Flowing on from the last question V23 Gives the big picture shape to our prayers - above all we ask him to enable us to keep his command – believe in Jesus - and love one another (love God, love others)

All the other opportunities to love and to keep his commands are expressions of that, so we pray he would enable us to do that to – and for both we are confident that we will receive what we ask!

V24 Notice too the relationship that has been on show throughout – where we live ‘in him’ and he ‘in us’ – a picture of being together and delighting in and serving the other

Why is God saying this?

What have you noticed about righteousness and what it looks like in our relationships? And how they look when it is absent?

Aren't righteousness and love closely connected? As Jesus has made us righteous – his children – now we may act righteously - loving him and each other.

The unrighteous are not children of God and cannot love but rather are haters and murderers – they may not physically murder someone else, but rather in their hearts. They take life rather than ‘lay down’ their own for the sake of others. There but by the grace of God go we.

How have you been challenged to think about your relationships with other Christians? And those who are not Christians

Rejoice in the ways in which we express and reflect the love of Jesus.

Consider ways we may long to grow more like him.

Maybe the priority of loving Christians has struck people afresh – the nature of church is that we are meant to be a real part of each others lives, to know each other, and serve each other in the messiness of life now, and strengthen one another on the journey to our eternal life to come

Remember too that prioritising loving other Christians doesn't mean we don't love those who are not. In fact if we're practicing it with the Christians, it will spill over from us, and our church, into the lives of others.

How should our confidence before God shape our prayers?

What we need most – he tells us – he loves us to ask for - he provides for us – he gives it freely and generously – so we may love him and one another - even the means by which we may be forgiven when we're drawn into the thoughts, speech and actions we lived in before we were rescued

Prayer Starters

- Thank God for his love displayed in Jesus' laying down his life for us
- Pray God's Spirit would enable us to love each other with the love with which he's loved us
- Pray God may shape our hearts so that our prayers align with his heart

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Share with one another a ministry you are involved with and prayer suggestions for it (either one at church or beyond) and pray together. You may have time for one or two but can do others in the future.

Are there any people I should follow up this week?



EMU PLAINS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sharing life