

# Term Outline

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



Week 7: Hear God's Spirit					
1 John 4:1-6					
Getting Started:					
How do you decide whether to trust something someone tells you?					
<b>Pray</b> for understanding as we read God's word.					
What is God saying?					
Read 1 John 3:24-4:6 What must we do when spirits claim to bring a message from God (v1)? And why?					
How do we discern which to listen to (v2-3)?					
What does John say for our benefit about the spiritual power struggle in which we are participants (v4)?					
What reminder are we given about the two realms, and those who belong to each, and the truth of who listens to whom (5-6)?					

# Why is God saying this?

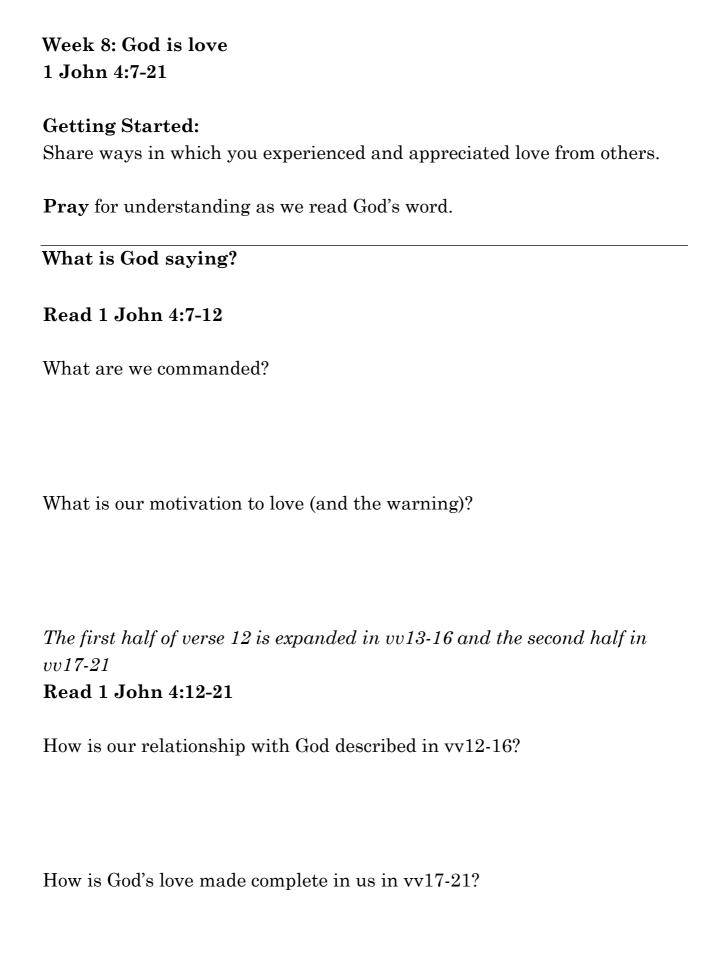
Who are people who claim to speak to us on God's behalf?
How can we get better at testing the spirits?
What is the benefit of having one another as we test the spirits, and how may we serve one another to listen wisely?

Consider your diet of people here and elsewhere who teach and shape your view of God, yourself and the gospel. Are there ways in which you need to change which spirits you listen to?

- Thank God that we may know him by his Spirit, through his word in the Bible
- Ask God to give us discernment to test the spirits and so listen to him and not the world

Growing Growth Group Suggestion
Consider an end of term meal or prayer focus or other activity together as
a group or with another group





### Why is God saying this?

How are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, the one God at work in all this talk of love

Reflect on experiences and people at church where you find them difficult to love. What reflections would you make about the interplay of things that contribute to that?

How has this word from God challenged you today to view and approach such situations and people now?

- Praise God that he is love, that he has loved us, and sent his Son as a sacrifice for our sin
- Ask God to enable you to love Christian brothers & sisters because he loves them
- Ask God to enable us to delight in the knowledge that he is in us and we in him

# **Growing Growth Group Suggestion**

What about someone from your group finding and bringing prayer points for a particular ministry within or partnered with our church (i.e. groups at church, missionary updates, Moore college etc.)



# Week 9: Born of love to love 1 John 5:1-12

#### **Getting Started:**

Can you think of any times you were uncertain whether the message of the gospel was genuine, or 'was enough'?

**Pray** for understanding as we read God's word.

#### What is God saying?

#### Read 1 John 5:1-5

What are the distinctive of Jesus' disciples and how they reveal our love for God?

Describe the spiritual battle exposed here again.

#### Read 1 John 5:6-12

John has a lot to say about the testimony – *reports that support something or someone's authenticity* – surrounding Jesus. What are they?

And what do our responses reveal?

### Why is God saying this?

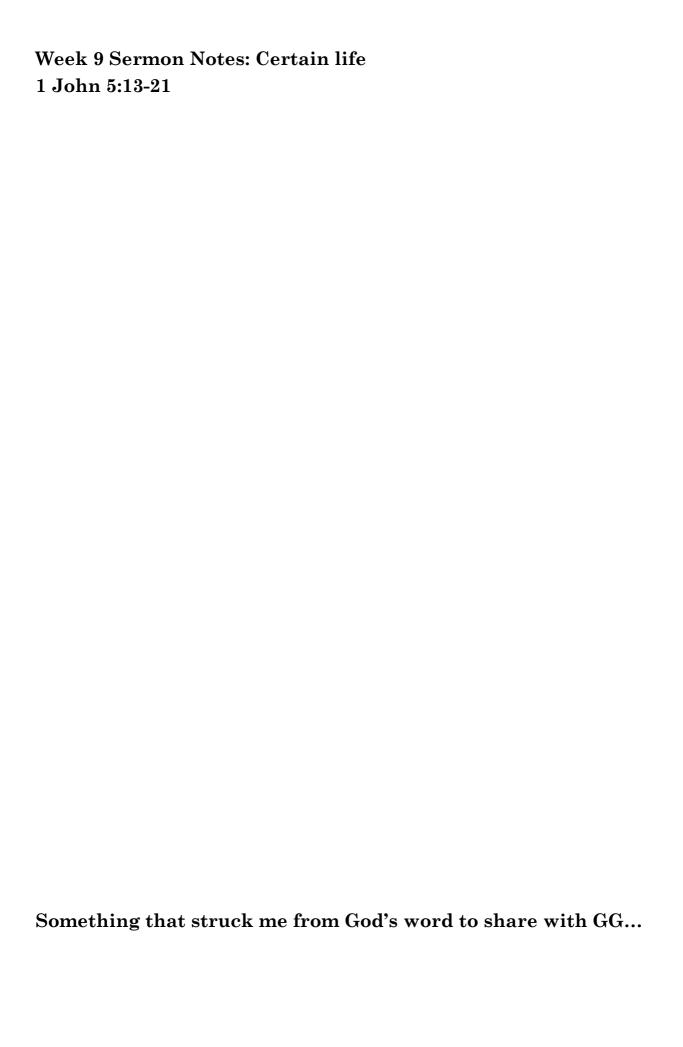
How may we know we love God?

What do you think is the intended effect of language like 'overcoming the world' and 'victory'? And what impact does it have on you?

John doesn't mince his words – he sees Jesus Christ in black and white terms rather than shades of grey. How has he strengthened or challenged your view of Jesus and knowing him?

- Praise God that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!
- Pray that by God's Spirit, we might love each other and neither feel overcome by nor fearful of the world
- · Thank God for the eternal life we share through his Son

Growing Growth Group Suggestion Plan to call or catch up with someone from the group during the week to check in with how they are going with their growth goals for this year.



Week 10: Certain life 1 John 5:13-21

#### **Getting Started:**

Share something that you have learnt or been reminded, challenged or strengthened by as you've read 1 John

**Pray** for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read through 1 John chapters 1-5 together again as a group

Read 1 John 5:13-21

Why has John written this letter?

And how does this impact our prayers?

How then do loving one another, and our sins, and prayer go together in God's purposes for us as his church?

What might be the 'sin that leads to death' as opposed to those 'sins that do not lead to death'?

How do the final words of John (vv18-21) support and strengthen the central message of his letter?

# Why is God saying this?

How have you been taught, rebuked, corrected or trained in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17) through this letter?

What might you say to a fellow disciple who is feeling unsettled by their experience of false teachers, or the world, or the lies of the devil?

- · Praise God neither the devil, the world, our sin nor false teachers can undermine our eternal life in him
- · Pray that God would grant this same life to others who may share with us in this same confidence, through all Jesus is and has done
- Pray for our term 4 vision season as a church, and time in Hosea, and Christmas opportunities

