



1 JOHN

LIGHT • LIFE • LOVE

STUDIES 1-5

Introduction to 1 John - Light, Life & Love

John wrote his *gospel* so his readers might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. His *first letter* was written so that those who believe should remain and be confident in this belief.

He writes, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13).

As his first readers listened and were strengthened, so may we.

In the face of those who deny the God’s Christ is Jesus, who deny the reality and gravity of sin, who claim to know him and yet whose words and actions deny him, who claim to have special insight into the things of God we need not doubt that we know him and know life. As God has loved us, so we love him and all with whom we have fellowship.

Term Outline

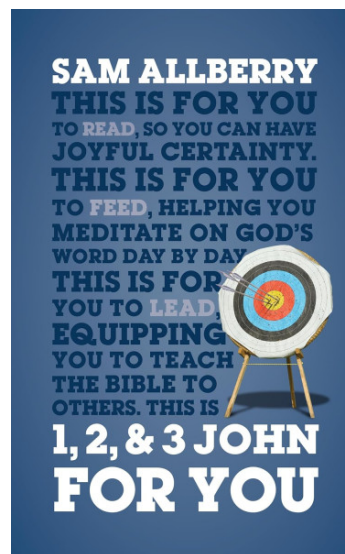
Sunday	Text	Title
20 th July	1:1-4	Light, Life & Love
27 th July	1:5-2:2	Cleansed by the Light
3 rd August	2:3-14	Walk in the Light
10 th August	2:15-27	Do not love the World
17 th August	2:28-3:12	Does what we do Matter?
24 th August	3:13-24	Love one another
<i>25th August Christianity Explored starts</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

Resources

1, 2 & 3 John For You – Sam Allberry

Pastor Sam Allberry unpacks these three short books verse by verse, helping readers to face the letters' challenges and grow stronger in their faith, in the joyful certainty that they will always be God's beloved children.

They are short and simple enough to read through easily but also insightful and challenging in a way that helps you understand and apply the word of God to your life.



How To Read The Bible Better - Richard Chin



No matter how you feel about the world's bestselling book, we can all use a guiding hand to help us make the most of our Bible reading. In this short, readable book, pastor and preacher Richard Chin offers you a step-by-step guide to better Bible reading: how to make sense of the Scriptures, how to avoid the most common pitfalls, and how to let God's word shape your life.

We have also made a study booklet to go with this book to help you reflect on the things you are learning. Find it on the Grow What You Know book table.

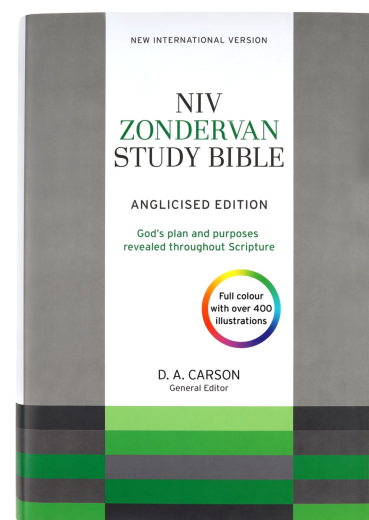
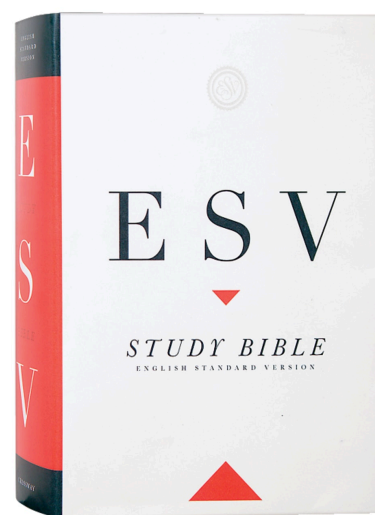
Study Bibles

A good study Bible is the no.1 discipleship tool in the Christian toolbox for people who want to look intently into the word of God and be transformed.

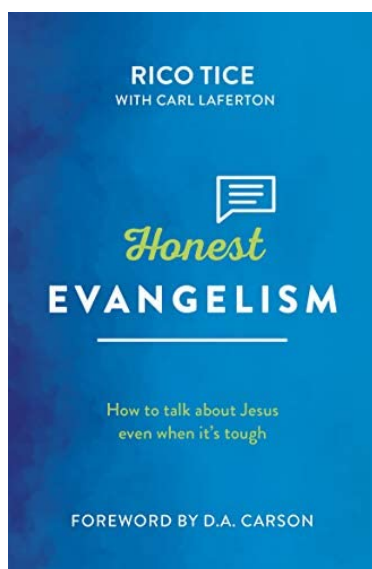
The best feature of Study Bibles are the notes on every page and every part of Scripture to help the reader understand what God is saying. They are also full of maps, pictures, and charts, as well as articles on doctrine and Christian living.

They can be expensive but are absolutely worth the cost.

Recommendations are *ESV Study Bible*, *NIV Zondervan Study Bible*, or the *NIV Study Bible*. You can purchase from good Christian book stores or from the *Grow What You Know Table*.



Honest Evangelism - Rico Tice



Hostility and hunger - they're the responses to the message of Jesus. The first is painful, the second is wonderful, and Rico Tice is honest about both.

Short, clear, realistic and humorous, this book will challenge you to be honest in your conversations about Jesus, help you to know how to talk about him, and thrill you that God can and will use ordinary people to change eternal destinies.

Discipleship Goals Bookmark

This bookmark is a great tool to help us grow mature in Christ. Every year we encourage everyone to write down 3 discipleship goals.

Here are some ideas:

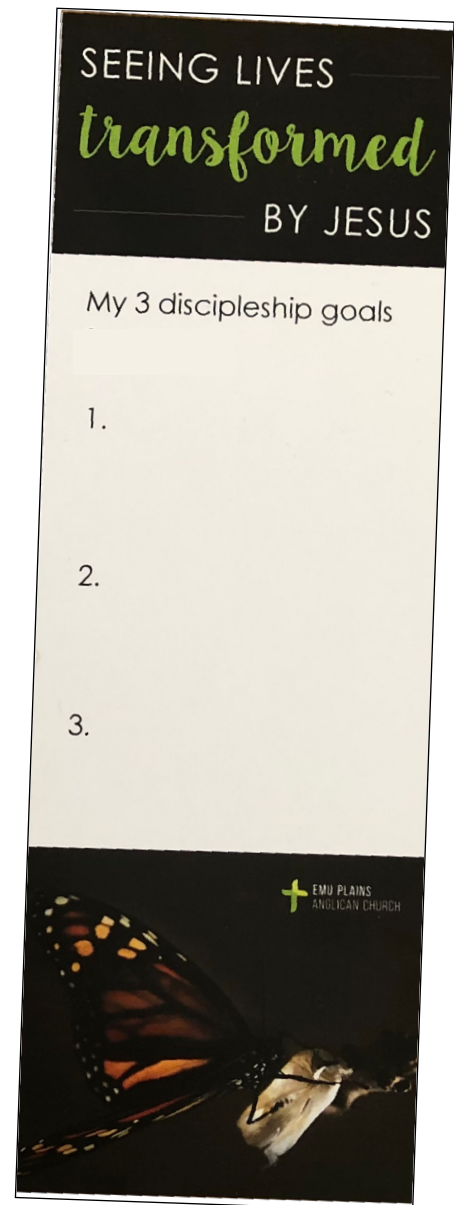
- Growing in a spiritual discipline like Bible reading, praying, gathering at church, serving, giving, or evangelism.
- Putting off sins like pride, greed or lust etc.
- Putting on Christ in growing humility, patience, or self-control.
- Deepening knowledge and conviction of the Christian faith through reading, studying, and reflecting with the help good books.
- Developing a ministry gift like explaining the gospel, reading the Bible with someone, or leading a small group.

Share your discipleship goals with your growth group so you can keep one another accountable by regularly asking how you are going and pray about them together so we might grow as disciples.

On the flip-side of the bookmark is 3 people

I'm praying will come to trust Jesus. These are 3 people God has placed in your life who don't know Jesus. You are praying they would come to trust Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. This will mean praying for growth in your relationship, for opportunities to teach the gospel, and asking for God's grace through the Spirit to bring them to repentance and faith in Christ.

Not sure what to pray? Search *'18 prayers to pray for unbelievers'*



Week 1 Sermon Notes: Life, Light, & Love
1 John 1:1-4

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

Week 1 Life, Light, & Love

1 John 1:1-4

Getting Started:

What have you experienced first-hand that you wanted others to enjoy?

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

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

Keep an eye out for the reason/s John says he wrote, and any repeated words or themes, as well as any structure you notice. Discuss what you notice?

Read 1 John 1:1-14

What was John's experience of the *word of life*?

What do we hear about the *word of life*? Who is he?

What is John doing with what he has seen and heard? And why?

Now John says why he is writing to his hearers several times. Note what he says in the table.

<i>I write / I am writing</i>	<i>Why?</i>
1:4	
2:1	
2:7-8	
2:12-14	
2:21	
2:26	
5:13	

How would you sum up in one sentence why John wrote?

Why is God saying this?

How should John's first-hand experience of Jesus give us confidence?

How does what John wants for his first readers display what God wants today for us and for others?

Consider, now you've read 1 John, what might have been his top concerns for his first readers at this time and place?

Prayer Starters

- Thank God for the visible, historic and public coming of Jesus, the Word of life
- Pray God would enable our hearts and minds to grasp and trust and rely on the eternal life he has granted us
- Pray that our joy may be made complete as God enables others to know Jesus through us

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Plan to call or catch up with someone from the group during the week to check in with how they're going. Or plan to pray for your group and let them know when you have done it.

Are there any people I should follow up this week?

Week 2 Sermon Notes: Cleansed by the Light
1 John 1:5-2:2

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

Week 2: Cleansed by the Light

1 John 1:5-2:2

Getting Started:

Day and night, light and darkness – how do each affect our experiences?

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read 1 John 1:5-2:2

What is 'the message' and how has it travelled to its hearers v5?

What does our 'walk' (how we live) reveal about our relationship with God vv6-7?

What does our self-awareness of sin reveal about our relationship with God vv1:8-2:2?

In the face of the gravity of our sin where may we find confidence for our relationship with God?

Why is God saying this?

Light and darkness, truth and lies, righteousness and unrighteousness -

how does John help us to see the world, God, and ourselves clearly?

How may being real about our sin effect how we think and act – individually and together?

What does it feel like to know Jesus is your advocate, and what difference may it make day by day?

How would you describe coming into fellowship with God and with each other to someone else?

Prayer Starters

- Thank God that by his light he exposes reality - and our darkness
- Confess your sin to God
- Praise and thank him for the forgiveness he offers through Jesus our atonement and advocate

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?

Week 3 Sermon Notes: Walk in the Light
1 John 2:3-14

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

Week 3: Walk in the Light

1 John 2:3-14

Getting Started:

Recap with one another what you remember from 1 John so far

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read 1 John 2:3-6

How do we know if we 'know him' or are 'in him'?

Read 1 John 2:7-11

(Read also Jesus' words before his death in John 13:31-35)

An old command, but a new command - how is this similarity and difference connected with the Son?

Verses 9-11 paint a confronting picture. How do they challenge you?

(Consider what Jesus says in Matthew 5:21-24)

Read 1 John 2:12-14

This poem forms a bridge between the introduction and the remainder of the letter. What confidence and encouragement does it offer us?

Why is God saying this?

If we're honest with ourselves, are there areas of our lives where we don't obey God's word and keep his commands - thing we do we shouldn't, or should that we don't?

Consider the week you've just had, or the one ahead. Reflect on what opportunities you had/have to love your brothers and sisters, or areas for repentance.

How do John's words help us to hold together what we've become, and what we should do?

Prayer Starters

- Praise God for the light of his life-giving word
- Pray God may enable us to walk as Jesus did – in love – for God and for others
- Confess and ask forgiveness for the times we have hated those we should love

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Consider who you know who would benefit from attending Christianity Explored starting this month. Would you too? Pray for those to invite, them accepting the invitation, for the proclamation of the gospel, and for repentance and faith.

Are there any people I should follow up this week?

Week 4 Sermon Notes: Do not love the World
1 John 2:15-27

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

Week 4: Do not love the World

1 John 2:15-27

Getting Started:

Share a time someone tried to persuade you to change something significant, or you them.

Pray for understanding as we read God's word.

What is God saying?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

Why are love of the world and love of the Father incompatible?

Read 1 John 2:18-27

How do the antichrists and we who abide in the Father differ?

Antichrists	God's beloved

So, from what is said about them, who are the antichrists?

What comfort comes from 'what we heard from the beginning' abiding in us?

Why is God saying this?

In what ways do you feel the pull to love of world?

How may we resist and be safe from this pull?

How do you react to hear John warn of false teachers who have been members of the church?

Growing Growth Group Suggestion

Why not plan a catch up with one another over a meal for some time this term. When will it be, and what arrangements need to be made?

Prayer Starters

- Pray God's Spirit would enable us to love the Father and his will
- Pray he would prevent us from loving the world and the things of the world
- Pray he may enable us to abide in his word in the face of false teachers who deny the truth about the Son

Are there any people I should follow up this week?

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...

Study will be in the next booklet

