



Week 1 Study Sheet

Love and Light

Consider

In the world of Zoom, text messaging, and 20 second videos, the art of writing a letter seems archaic. Think about the last time you sat down to handwrite a letter? Was it a love letter? The letters of John are written to a congregation struggling with healthy fellowship and a clear understanding of Jesus. John writes to God's beloved children to encourage them to walk in the light and to love one another. As you engage in this study of authentic love, read the letters of John as if they are written directly to you. Before you begin, watch this video from the Bible Project for an illustrated overview on the letters of John:

ohcnow.com/BibleProject1-3John

Discover

Read [1 John 1:1-4](#) and [John 1:14](#)

- What truths and realities, from his personal experiences with Jesus, does John establish in the introduction?
- What similarities are present in these two passages?
- Who is the title "Word of Life" assigned to?
- How does John define his purpose for writing? (v. 4)

Read [1 John 1:5-10](#)

- What contrasting examples are presented in this passage and how do they shape our understanding of God's character and Jesus' actions?
- What actions inhibit our fellowship with God and with others? (v. 6, 8, 10)
- What actions support our fellowship with God and with others? (v. 7, 9)

Pray

Praise God for being light. Pure. Bright. Clear. Strong. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the dark and untruthful areas in your life. Confess your sin and claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 NIV, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." You are cleansed from your unrighteousness! Ask God to help you walk with him in the light.

Practice

Display the sacrificial love of Jesus by donating blood and giving life. The blood of Jesus was the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Physically, our existence depends on blood to sustain life, and, spiritually, our lives depend on the shed blood of Jesus Christ. You can share authentic love by meeting the physical needs in your community. Give blood locally during [OHC Blood Drives](#) supporting the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, or at a blood bank in your community.

Engage

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read [1 John 2](#), [Matthew 9:35-38](#), [Mark 1:40-42](#), [Luke 10:33](#) and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



Week 2 Study Sheet

Change Your World

Consider We have many loves. We love sports teams. Go Spurs! We love foods. Yeah tacos! How does a love for objects or places differ from a love for people? How do we know when someone authentically loves us? How do we know that God loves us? How do we show love to others? For John, God's love for us is the catalyst for our obedience to God, and our obedience to God results in authentic love for others. Reflect on the interactions you shared with others this week. Did you give or receive an expression of authentic love?

Discover Read [1 John 2:1-11](#)

- Why did John write this passage?
- What hope do sinners find in this passage?
- What differentiates those who know God from those who do not?
- How is love for God made complete in our obedience to his Word?
- John refers to fellow believers in Christ as our brothers and sisters, why does he emphasize the importance of loving our brother and sister? (v. 9-11)

Read [1 John 2:15-29](#)

- Can we love the world (darkness) and love God (light) at the same time? (v. 15-17)
- What are the characteristics of the antichrist? (v. 18-23)
- How are we to defeat the lies of the antichrist? (v. 24)
- What is the anointing we receive and how does it lead us to truth?

Pray Praise God for his authentic, perfect, complete love. Thank him for his guiding light and truth. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any love for the world (sin) that keeps you from fellowship with God or others. Allow his grace to spur on obedience to his Word, that it may result in the overflowing of his authentic love in your life.

Practice Shine the true light of Jesus to those living in the darkness and oppression of generational poverty. Transform lives and communities by providing families with food, resources, and the authentic love of Jesus. Serve others in your community, or volunteer as a mentor with OHC's [Family Mentoring Ministry](#) where our relational discipleship approach serves to alleviate poverty, provide restoration, and help people discover their true identities in Christ.

Engage Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read [1 John 3](#), [John 13:1-17](#) and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



Week 3 Study Sheet

Here to Serve

Consider The world tells us to love ourselves. Jesus tells us to love God and love others. The world values self-care. Jesus values the care of others. When Jesus stated in John 15:13 NIV, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” he inseparably connected the ideas of authentic love and personal sacrifice. Have you ever served another at the cost of personal pain or suffering?

Discover Read [1 John 2:28-29](#), [1 John 3:1-3:10](#)

- How does our identity as children of God inform our experience with sin and righteousness?
- How has God shown love to you?
- What is the antidote for our sin that John continues to point us to? (v. 5-6)

Read [1 John 3:11-24](#)

- Why should we expect to be hated by the world? (v. 11-13)
- How are we encouraged to show love like Jesus? (v. 16-18)
- What enables us to have confidence before God? (v. 22)
- What does our confidence before God lead us to do? (v. 23)
- What help do we have in loving God and loving others? (v. 19-24)

Pray Rejoice in the great love the Father has lavished on you! Ask God to show you how much he loves you and listen for his reply. Rest in his lavish love. Allow his Spirit to help you reciprocate that authentic love through your obedience and service to others.

Practice Provide affordable housing and create a home for a family in your community. An estimated 153,000 families in San Antonio have an unmet housing need, including 71,000 children living in overcrowded housing. Serve locally with [OHC and Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio](#) or volunteer for a Habitat for Humanity team near you to share the lavish love of Jesus by providing long-term housing solutions to families in need.

Engage Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read [1 John 4](#), [Psalm 34:18](#), [Matthew 25](#) and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



Week 4 Study Sheet

Stepping into the Pain of Others

Consider

Do you find it difficult to receive love? Many of us do not understand the full measure of God's love. John tells us in 1 John 4:16 NIV, that we can "know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." In the ultimate act of love, he took the penalty for our sins upon himself and freed us from slavery to sin. Why might this kind of love be hard for us to receive?

Discover

Read [1 John 4:1-6](#)

- How can we test if someone's view of Jesus is true? (v. 1-3)
- How has the Spirit helped you test and avoid the lies of false teachings?

Read [1 John 4:7-16](#)

- What words are repeated in this passage?
- How would you summarize this passage in one sentence using the repeated words?
- How does this passage teach us to distinguish authentic love from counterfeit love?

Read [1 John 4:17-21](#)

- How does God's love drive out fear? (v. 17-18)
- How can we lie about our love for God? What can we do to correct the lie? (v. 19-21)

Pray

Shout a praise of thanksgiving - you serve a God who is love! Soak in his complete, perfect, lavish, sacrificial, reliable, authentic gift of love. Invite him to search your heart and let his love drive out fear. Ask him to give you his love for those around you.

Practice

Support communities around the world and transform lives. Through our partnership with [World Vision](#), OHC is sharing the authentic love of Jesus with a community in Honduras. Through child sponsorship we can empower children, their families, and their communities to break free from poverty. Join us during weekend worship (in-person or online) to learn how you can equip this community with resources for improved water and sanitation, health and nutrition, education, child protection, and spiritual nurture.

Engage

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read [1 John 5](#), [John 15:9-17](#), [1 Corinthians 13](#) and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



Week 5 Study Sheet

Our Greatest Witness

Consider We are ambassadors. This is how Paul describes us in his letter to the church at Corinth ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)). As God's ambassadors we have a responsibility to champion the causes of his kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. John further describes us in his letter as God's children. We not only advance his cause, but also carry his name and authority. As a child of God, how can you live a life that honors your heavenly Father?

Discover Read [1 John 5:1-12](#)

- How do we carry out God's command to love his children? (v. 2)
- How are the commands of God described by John? Do you agree? (v. 3)
- What does it mean to overcome the world? (v. 4-5, also see [John 16:33](#))
- The Father and the Spirit affirmed the divinity of Jesus during his life, why is their testimony important? (v. 6-12)

Read [1 John 5:13-21](#)

- What confidence do we have in approaching God? (v. 14-15)
- What should we pray for our brothers and sisters? (v. 16-17)
- What descriptive word is repeated three times at the close of this passage? (v. 20, read NIV).
- What are idols, and why does John end his letter with a warning to keep away from idols? (v. 21)

Pray Meditate on your position as a child of God. Rest securely in the presence of your Father. Seek him with confidence, listen for his direction, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your actions. Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may turn from sin and follow the one true God.

Practice Show authentic love to children facing food insecurity. Children around the world are hungry and living in poverty. Through our partnership with [Children's Hunger Fund](#), we can deliver help and the hope of the gospel to a suffering world. Join OHC locally to pack or distribute CHF Food Paks or partner with your local food bank to help fight food insecurity where you live, work, learn or play.

Engage Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read [2 John](#), [3 John](#), [Galatians 6:1-10](#), [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



Week 6 Study Sheet

Truth and Love

Consider

John's letters to the church paint the picture of a connected community. He uses phrases like "beloved" and often refers to them as "little children." Yet, the community also seems to be struggling. They struggle to understand the identity of Jesus. As an early Christian community, having a completely orthodox view of Jesus would have been difficult. We face some of the same obstacles today. Opposition came from within their community and the same can be true for us. How can we ensure that we teach the correct understanding of Christ within our community so that it may express the love of God to those outside the church?

Discover

Read [2 John](#)

- What similar themes are evident between 2 John and 1 John? (v. 5-6)
- Why is it important for followers of Jesus to acknowledge that Jesus came in the flesh? (v. 7)
- Why does John warn his readers to not become progressive in their thinking and teaching, but to stay focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Christ? (v. 9)

Read [3 John](#)

- How should we treat those sharing the authentic love of Jesus with others? Who would this be in our church? (v. 8)
- What is Diotrephes doing to endanger the church? (v. 9)
- Based on John's previous instructions, how should we respond to some like Diotrephes within our community?
- What are we called to imitate? (v. 11)

Pray

Praise the one true God and thank him for showing us his love and truth. Thank him for missionaries and those who have gone throughout the world to spread the gospel. Ask God to show you how you can preserve the truth and unity within our church and how you can share his authentic love with the world.

Practice

Share the authentic love of Jesus by practicing hospitality. Invite someone where you live, work, learn or play to join you for a meal. Take an interest in their story. Allow the Spirit to guide you as you listen for an opportunity to share your story of how you came to know and experience the love of God.

Engage

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. Read [John 17:6-26](#), [Romans 12:9-16](#), [Philippians 2:12-18](#) and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?