

PARTICIPANT GUIDE
Life Group Booklet



1 JOHN: PART 2
January 2024



Name: _____

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LETTER FROM KEITH

Dear WCC Family,

What a way to kick off 2024! In January & February of 2024, we will spend 8 weeks in the Epistle of 1 John, a small but powerful letter. Let's face it, the first few months of the year are the dead of winter! We are past the Christmas gatherings and New Year celebrations and left with the colder, darker months of the year. My hope and prayer is that as you spend time in this letter and other writings of John (*see reading plan*) that it will encourage your faith, bring light to your life, and truth, love, and grace to your heart, mind, and soul.

I think there are 3 really important questions we have to ask ourselves as we read 1 John:

1. Do we believe in the Jesus we see in Scripture?

One of the biggest issues John and the early church were facing was false teachers who were teaching ideas about Jesus that were not adhering to the Bible and to the early eyewitness accounts of the Apostles. These false teachings allowed for sin and immoral behavior and leads us to the next question.

2. Are you walking in the light of Jesus?

Are we obedient to the Word of God and seeking to no longer walk in darkness (the way of this world) but rather walking in the light (the way of Jesus)? Jesus gave the command in Matthew 28 for his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to obey everything that he (Jesus) had commanded.

3. Are you 'more loving?'

Believing in the Biblical Jesus and being obedient to God's Word should lead to us being more loving to those who are struggling with this world. More loving does not mean that we condone or affirm sin, but rather we show love in how we treat others, speak to them, and serve them; showing the same grace and mercy that Jesus showed to sinful people as he spoke truth and called sinners to repent.

So despite the cold, wintery, overcast days, grab your Bible (or Bible App), check out the reading plan, and spend time reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word to us from 1 John (and John's gospel and other letters). The Word is a light to our path, it shows us the way; in it we find light, life, and love- assurance of our salvation that we have in Christ Jesus!

Blessings,

Keith

FEBRUARY 4 | WEEK 5 | TAKE SIN SERIOUSLY [1 JOHN 2:28-3:10]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Are all things either right or wrong? (Black or white, yes or no). Or are there true “gray areas” in life? Give an example for your answer.
2. When you sin, how do you deal with it?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. What is a good definition of sin?
2. Read 1 John 2:28-3:3. List the words or phrases in each verse that show how Christians will benefit if we, “Continue in Jesus” and avoid sin.
3. Read 1 John 3:4-10. Verses 6 and 10, especially, seem almost defeating for some Christians. How/Where do we find hope if this is true?
4. Read Romans 3:23-24. Too many times we only quote verse 23. Why is it important that we continue on to verse 24?

5. Since we know that Jesus died for our sins and He offers saving grace, does that give us permission to continue to sin? Read Romans 6:1-4.

6. We've talked a lot about COMMITTING sin today...is it also possible for you to sin by OMISSION? Read James 4:17.

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. Is there an, "eyes wide open" sin in your life that you need to put an end to?

2. If so, how do you plan to attack it?

3. Who is someone you trust that you could talk to about this sin? (Make sure it is a person who is spiritually stronger than you!)

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

Haitian Island Ministries

HIM is a ministry that has been reaching out to the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere since 1994. Most people in Haiti live on less than \$1 a day. There is no welfare or public assistance available. About 80% of the population lives in abject poverty and 70% of the adult population cannot read or write. haitianislandministries.org

FEBRUARY 11 | WEEK 6 | WHAT IS LOVE [1 JOHN 3:11-24]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. Name songs and artists, TV, or movies who have used the word “Love” in the title.
2. Songwriters, novelists, Hollywood, and Poets have all had a field day with the word “Love”. In 1965 Deon Jackson had a hit song, “Love Makes The World Go Around”. Love might make the world go around, but it creates a lot of confusion in the process. Why do you believe love is so confusing?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 John 1:5-7. If God is light, what does the darkness represent? What promise are we given if we walk in the light and what motivation does this give you? Is Jesus making here? What does this teach us on how we should live out our lives?
2. What is “love” and how does the Bible define love?
3. Read 1 John 3:12-15. Why does John give Cain as an example (you may need to have someone in your group share the story of Cain and Abel from Genesis 4). Where does John get the idea that hating someone and murdering them is linked?

4. Read verses 1 John 3:16-24. What do these verses teach us about loving others?

5. What are God's commands in verse 23?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How can I demonstrate that God's love lives in me?

2. Are there any attitudes or actions in regards to loving others that I need to change?

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

High Hill Christian Camp

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center's goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God's wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus. highhillcamp.org

*Make sure to register your kids for summer camp! Information for which camps WCC is attending can be found at wentzvillecc.org/events.

FEBRUARY 17 | WEEK 7 | TESTING THE SPIRITS [1 JOHN 4:1-21]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. **Have you ever had “buyer’s remorse?”** (you bought something and regretted it later) **What made you regret the purchase?** (you didn’t really need it, it wasn’t what you thought it would be, it wasn’t the real thing, etc)
2. **1 John has a lot to say about love. Why do you think John keeps expounding on love?**

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. **Read 1 John 4:1-3. How can you recognize the Spirit of God versus the spirit of the antichrist?**
2. **How can Christians today “test the spirits to see whether they are from God?”**
3. **Read 1 John 4:4-6. How have we overcome the false teachers and the antichrist? How should we filter the influences of this world from becoming values and principles for living?**
4. **Read 1 John 4:7-17. What are the key principles of love about which John writes? How can these help us in our Christian walk?**

5. Read 1 John 4:17 again. With question 4 in mind, in this world, how can we be like Jesus? How challenging is this?

6. Read 1 John 4:18-21. What would it look like for God's perfect love to drive out fear in your life? What do these verses teach us about fear and love?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How might God be calling you to greater discernment when it comes to the world's influences? Is he calling you to deeper study and understanding of his Word to better test the spirits?

2. Do you find yourself more loving or more critical and judgmental of others right now? If the latter, how will you reconnect with the love of God in Christ?

3. What are things that you can do to continue to love your brother and sister in Christ?

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

Central Christian College of the Bible The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordable as possible. CCCB believes so completely in what their students will do for Christ that they want to not only equip them with a quality education, but an affordable one so their future ministry will not be burdened by financial stress. cccb.edu

FEBRUARY 24 | WEEK 8 | OVERCOMERS [1 JOHN 5:1-21]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What bad habit, relationship, or desire have you overcome? How did you do it?
2. What aspect of your faith helps you to overcome temptation and sin?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 John 5:1-5. How can we be assured we are an “overcomer?”
2. Read 1 John 5:6-12. What can be our defense against false teaching? (Read Colossians 2:1-8)
3. How can we be on guard against demonic and deceptive teaching?
4. Have you ever heard a spiritual teacher express a concept contrary to Scripture? What about a Christian friend expressing something similar in person? If that happens to you, what should be your response?

5. Read 1 John 5:13-21. John stresses in this last part of his letter our need to pray and our need to continue to battle sin in our lives and in the lives of others. How does prayer help you with sin? How can you pray for others who are struggling with sin?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How can you show love to someone this week that you've disagreed with?
2. What can you do this week to resolve some false teaching you may have heard recently?

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

Team Expansion: Allen & Cherry Messimer – Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. teamexpansion.org

READING PLAN FOR FEBRUARY 2024

This reading plan takes us through the gospel and the letters that the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle John to write. Lots of connections throughout the letters: Jesus Christ both human and divine, truth vs. false teachings, the command to love one another, and many more! The reading plan is for Monday-Friday (using Saturday as a day to catch-up). There is some repetition for 1 John. That's intentional for the series; we want you to read it several times. We barely dip into Revelation so we kept it mostly to the chapters that speak of Christ's reign and sovereignty and the end of Revelation which inspires us to remain faithful!



1 JOHN PART 2 - FEBRUARY

Monday:	5 th - 1 Jn 5	12 th - 1 Jn 1-5	19 th - Rev 2	26 th - 1 Jn 1-3
Tuesday:	6 th - Jn 17	13 th - Jn 21	20 th - Rev 3	27 th - 1 Jn 4-5
Wednesday:	7 th - Jn 18	14 th - 2 John	21 st - Rev 4	28 th - Rev 21
Thursday:	8 th - Jn 19	15 th - 3 John	22 nd - Rev 19	29 th - Rev 22
Friday:	9 th - Jn 20	16 th - Rev 1	23 rd - Rev 20	