

THE BOOK OF

# 1 John

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# Light My Way

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you been in a dark place and you wanted some light?

### READ 1 John 1:1–10.

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#### 1. How do you know that Jesus is real, and that he is God?

- A. I've seen him.
- B. I've heard him.
- C. I've felt him.
- D. The testimony of others.
- E. Miracles.
- F. Scripture.
- G. The difference Jesus has made in my life.
- H. You can't know for sure; it requires some faith.
- I. Other.

#### 2. What was John's testimony about Jesus?

- A. Jesus was real.
- B. I lived with him.
- C. Jesus was human, like you and me.
- D. Jesus was God.
- E. Jesus came from God.
- F. Jesus is human, and Jesus is God.
- G. Jesus brings us into fellowship with God.
- H. Jesus brings us into fellowship with each other.
- I. Other.

#### 3. Would you translate *verse 4* "YOUR joy" or "OUR joy"?

- A. I don't translate from Greek to English.
- B. It's not up to me; that's up to God (or a Greek scholar).
- C. It could be translated either way, or it could mean both.
- D. John wrote it so YOUR joy would be complete—a gift for you.
- E. John wrote it so OUR joy would be complete—fellowship together.
- F. Either is fine with me.
- G. It should be both.
- H. Writing doesn't make anyone's joy complete; experiencing it does.
- I. Other.

**4. If “God is light” (vs. 5), what are the ramifications?**

- A. God makes it easier to see.
- B. Darkness disappears when God is present.
- C. Light often brings warmth.
- D. Scientifically, light is energy; so God is energy.
- E. God is bright.
- F. God is the opposite of darkness.
- G. Light enables people to see things they wouldn’t otherwise see.
- H. Light is the fastest thing known to humans.
- I. Other.

**5. What is the relationship between light and dark, fellowship and sin?**

- A. Light removes darkness and exposes sin.
- B. Sin seeks darkness rather than light.
- C. Fellowship can happen in the light or in the dark.
- D. Light and fellowship go together.
- E. Light and fellowship come with God.
- F. We are a combination of all four.
- G. We lose fellowship when we sin and move to the dark.
- H. Other.

**6. What happens when we confess our sin(s)?**

- A. Everyone will know about it.
- B. Everyone will talk about it.
- C. Jesus/God forgives us.
- D. We only need to confess to God.
- E. Our fellowship will be with sinners.
- F. Our fellowship will be with forgiven sinners.
- G. We will experience forgiveness—Yes!
- H. It should be a habit we practice.
- I. Other.

**7. What is your paraphrase of *verse 9*?**

**8. What is your testimony about who Jesus is?**

# Instructions

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's one of God's commands you like? What's one you don't like?

## READ 1 John 2:1–29.

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### 1. Does John expect that Christ's followers will sin?

- A. No (*vs. 1*).
- B. Yes (*vs. 2*).
- C. There's no excuse for sin.
- D. There's a remedy for sin.
- E. Everybody sins.
- F. It depends on one's definition of "sin."
- G. Jesus enables sinners on earth to be "at one" (atone) with heaven.
- H. Just follow the instructions John provides.
- I. Other.

### 2. What role do God's commandments play?

- A. Guidance.
- B. Exposing liars and fakes.
- C. Power to live right.
- D. Intimacy with God.
- E. A standard for evaluation.
- F. Nurturing spiritual growth.
- G. Revealing the heart of God.
- H. Make it obvious we need a Savior.
- I. Other.

### 3. What's the "old commandment"? How does it compare to the new one?

- A. Obey God.
- B. Trust God.
- C. Love God.
- D. Love others.
- E. Walk in the light.
- F. Forgiveness.
- G. Worship God.
- H. The old commandment is to obey; the new commandment is to love.
- I. Other.

**4. What's the difference in the age groups John addresses (vs. 12-14)?**

- A. The messages apply to all ages.
- B. Each age group has a message specific for them.
- C. Fathers/adults can deal with only one thing.
- D. Children need forgiveness.
- E. Young men/people are the only strong ones.
- F. Overcoming the evil one is a big deal.
- G. I identify most with \_\_\_\_\_.
- H. Other.

**5. What does “denying the Father and the Son” look like (vs. 22-23)?**

- A. Swearing.
- B. Lying.
- C. Starting with Christ, but not staying with Christ.
- D. Ignoring God.
- E. Doing what Peter did when he denied Christ (*John 18:25-27*).
- F. Claiming to follow Christ, but not living the way Christ lived.
- G. Saying Jesus was a good person, but not actually God.
- H. Other.

**6. What is the “anointing” John referred to in this chapter?**

- A. Baptism.
- B. The Holy Spirit.
- C. Knowledge of the Truth.
- D. Eternal life.
- E. Olive oil, preferably from the Mount of Olives.
- F. Empowerment to teach others.
- G. Discernment.
- H. Other.

**7. Darkness and light—how do you relate to these two opposites?**

**8. God so loved the world that he gave his only son (*John 3:16*). Why does John now admonish us to not love the world (*1 John 2:15-17*)?**

# Who's Your Daddy?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What is one way you have seen someone's daddy show love?

## READ 1 John 3:1–24.

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### 1. When do you sense God's love being lavished on you?

- A. Not very often.
- B. Most of the time.
- C. When I'm in church.
- D. When I'm in nature.
- E. During my private devotional time with God.
- F. When my relationships with others are good.
- G. When I count my blessings.
- H. The times I experience intimacy with God.
- I. Other.

### 2. How do you know you are a child of God?

- A. I don't know.
- B. I hope that I am.
- C. I hope that someday I will be.
- D. The Bible says I am.
- E. Jesus must have wondered this since he had no earthly father.
- F. People say I remind them of God.
- G. I seek to be pure and holy, like God is pure and holy.
- H. It's a matter of faith.
- I. Other.

### 3. What is sin?

- A. Transgression of the law.
- B. Lawlessness.
- C. Missing the mark.
- D. Selfishness.
- E. Rebellion.
- F. My natural state of mind and actions.
- G. Anything and everything associated with the devil.
- H. Anything not of faith (*Romans 14:23*).
- I. Other.

**4. What is the difference between “sinning” and “continuing to sin”?**

- A. There is no difference.
- B. How frequently a person does it.
- C. How long a person does it.
- D. Stopping rather than not choosing to stop.
- E. Stopping rather than not being able to stop.
- F. Continuing to do it after you’re aware of doing it?
- G. I’d rather not even talk about sin.
- H. Other.

**5. What does it take to “love one another”?**

- A. Be a child of God.
- B. A miraculous transformation.
- C. Accept God’s love and then pass it on to others.
- D. Stop “talking love” and start “doing love.”
- E. Being around loving people helps.
- F. Not being around any people so you don’t have to love anyone.
- G. You have to love yourself before you can love others.
- H. Other.

**6. What should you do if your heart condemns you (vs. 20)?**

- A. Ignore it.
- B. Pay special attention to it.
- C. Repent.
- D. Trust God’s Word rather than your feelings.
- E. Obey God.
- F. Remember that God is love.
- G. Compensate by loving others more.
- H. Other.

**7. How do you know who are children of God and who are children of the devil?**

**8. Who are your role models for how to love? Who might look to you as a role model for how to love?**

# You Call This Love

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's a love song you've liked at some point in your life?

## READ 1 John 4:1–21.

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### 1. How do you “test the spirits”?

- A. Don't immediately believe everything you see or hear.
- B. Go with your gut.
- C. Ask God to give you impressions as you pray.
- D. The Holy Spirit gives discernment.
- E. Get input from others you trust.
- F. Look at all sides of an issue or claim.
- G. Check if it's a worldly perspective or a heavenly perspective.
- H. I have no idea.
- I. Other.

### 2. “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world” (vs. 4) means:

- A. There is a supernatural power in the world greater than you.
- B. There is a supernatural power in you greater than the world.
- C. God empowers us to overcome the devil.
- D. God overcomes the devil in our world.
- E. It's very important to have God in you.
- F. God overpowers the devil every time.
- G. God overpowers the devil the majority of the time.
- H. We need encouragement when we feel overwhelmed by the devil.
- I. Other.

### 3. How has God shown his love?

- A. He went first—taking the risk by giving his love before we gave ours.
- B. God floods us with his love—like a hurricane.
- C. Through other people loving us.
- D. He restores our broken relationship with him.
- E. He restores our broken relationships with others.
- F. The gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- G. He gives us so much love that it spills over to others.
- H. I haven't seen much of God's love on this earth.
- I. Other.



**4. “God is love” (vs. 8, 16). How do you know?**

- A. The Bible says it.
- B. I’ve experienced it.
- C. God’s gift of Christ coming to earth.
- D. What Jesus showed about God during his ministry on earth.
- E. The death of Christ.
- F. It transforms my life.
- G. The lives of others I’ve seen transformed.
- H. Other.

**5. Why does John give so much emphasis to loving others?**

- A. John came from a troubled background.
- B. That’s the evidence for whether or not you’ve received God’s love.
- C. That’s the whole point.
- D. This is how God demonstrates his love—loving others through you.
- E. It’s just a fad that comes and goes.
- F. It’s what the world needs now; the only thing there’s much too little of.
- G. Anyone can claim to love God; loving others is the litmus test.
- H. Other.

**6. What counsel or advice do you have for people who lack love?**

- A. Go to God if you want love.
- B. God is going to get you.
- C. You can’t give what you haven’t received.
- D. Just be yourself.
- E. Any claim to love God is a charade unless you love others.
- F. Your fears in life can be replaced with God’s love for you.
- G. May I give you a hug?
- H. Other.

**7. Why do you love God? What would make that love increase?**

**8. How can/does God’s love for you change the way you relate to others?**

# Forever Faithful Family

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When did you get something for free? What did you do with it?

## READ 1 John 5:1–21.

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### 1. What does it take to be a child of God?

- A. You have to be born into the family.
- B. It's possible to be adopted into the family.
- C. It helps if you're a really good person.
- D. Being young seems to be what's important (a child).
- E. It depends more on the "parents" than on the child.
- F. You need to act like a member of the family.
- G. Faith, and lots of it.
- H. Choose for one's self that Jesus is God.
- I. Other.

### 2. What are God's commandments?

- A. The 10 Commandments (*found in Exodus 20*).
- B. Love God; and love your neighbor as yourself.
- C. Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.
- D. They include lots of details, like don't eat pork.
- E. Too many to count.
- F. Anything and everything God has ever said.
- G. The Sermon on the Mount.
- H. Whichever ones I happen to like.
- I. Other.

### 3. How can you "overcome" the world.

- A. Live a really good life.
- B. Engage in spiritual warfare.
- C. Stay away from politics.
- D. Stay away from evil.
- E. Live like a hermit.
- F. Maintain your focus on Jesus; don't get distracted.
- G. Live in a "blue zone" like Loma Linda, CA, surrounded by saints.
- H. Pray and have devotions every day.
- I. Other.

**4. What is the meaning in verses 6-7 about water, blood, and Spirit?**

- A. Water and blood came out of Christ's pierced side (*John 19:34*).
- B. This is the best part of the Bible to prove the Trinity.
- C. It sounds very confusing to me.
- D. Water is baptism and blood is Christ's death; Spirit is the Holy Spirit.
- E. This addresses the issue that Jesus became a human; then died.
- F. You need at least 2 witnesses; 3 was better (*Dt. 19:15*).
- G. The Holy Spirit continued what Jesus started on earth.
- H. Other.

**5. How does a person actually have/get Jesus (vs. 12)?**

- A. You're born with Jesus within you.
- B. When a person is baptized, Jesus enters.
- C. It's all in a person's mind.
- D. You must pray the "sinner's prayer" that asks Jesus to save you.
- E. Just ask.
- F. Live like a believer in Jesus should live.
- G. You might have Jesus, but then you lose him if you ever sin.
- H. Other.

**6. Do people in God's family sin, or have they stopped sinning?**

- A. People sin until they join God's family; then they stop sinning.
- B. The difference is that they now repent and ask for forgiveness.
- C. The difference is that people in God's family frequently repent and ask for forgiveness.
- D. If you're in the family, you've gotta live like it—no more sinning.
- E. People will keep sinning until Jesus returns.
- F. It's been more than three years since I last sinned; how about you?
- G. Other.

**7. YES or NO: Do you have eternal life? What is your proof?**

**8. Write verse 21 in your own words. How do you live this way?**

