

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."
John 1:7



Winter 2023

session four

Welcome



Thank you for joining me for session three of our study on 1, 2, & 3 John. We are opening chapter 3 of 1 John this week and it is all about being a child of God, what a wonderful gift God gives us as He receives us as sons and daughters!

John reminds us that this is a lavish love, a love beyond measure. What a contrast this is with our own selfish nature and idea of love sometimes. I am praying for you as we dig deeper this week into what the Apostle is telling us and calling us into.

Lean in and ask God what personal areas He is reaching out to you about and in your life today. As always, If you have any questions regarding the study, please feel free to reach out to me via email at cjamison@eastridgetoday.com

Blessings,

Cheryl Jamison



Teaching Notes

#EW_beinthelight



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1 John 3:1-24

Additional notes for your personal reference:

Chapter 3 brings a transition from the challenge of being in the light to loving others. I found this outline of chapter 3 and thought it might be beneficial for you:

- Our relationship with God (1-3)
- Habitual sin and a relationship with God are incompatible (4-10)
- We are commanded to love one another (11-12)
- Loving others is evidence that we have eternal life (13-15)
- Love in action gives us confidence before God (16-22)
- Believe God. Obey God. Love the others (23-24)

As John is speaking in a pastoral voice, he is reminding the believers that they are a part of the family of God. Each of us knows that it is a gift and a responsibility to be a part of a family. We get to experience the joy-filled moments, but we also are to carry love and serve each other as a family.

As we continue here in chapter 3, consider your role as a family member. Do you take your responsibilities seriously, or is it a casual relationship without much effort? John is speaking to the believers not only in a corrective way but in a preventative way. Living and loving fully protects you from temptation elsewhere, and the apostle is striving to draw believers closer to God and to each other for their own benefit. Draw close friends, there is much to be gained!



Group Discussion

- 1 John 1:1a starts with this "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" in the NIV version. It reads like this "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" in the NKJV. Such descriptive words are used here, what manner of love and lavishness. Have you ever been given a gift outside of salvation that you would define as lavish? If yes, describe how it made you feel.
- Abide; what does abiding with God look like? I want to offer you some further thoughts on this. What if abiding with God was like an eclipse, where two objects get closer to one another until the smaller one is totally hidden behind the bigger object? What if we were abiding with God so much that the biggest focus was on Him and not ourselves? Could that be the kind of abiding we are called to? For further thought, consider John 14:4-7
- John calls us to three things in this chapter's closing comments:
To *Believe* God, *OBEY* God, and *LOVE* one another. Is it possible to be faithful in one of these and not another? Is there one area of these three that is more difficult for you than the other?

Personal Study 1 John 3:1-24



1. What should motivate us to live pure lives? (see 1 John 3:2-3)
2. How is sin defined by John? (see 1 John 3:4)
3. John emphasizes two reasons as to why Jesus came in 1 John 3:5 and also 1 John 3:8. List each of them below:
4. What distinguishes children of God from children of the devil? (see 1 John 3:10-11)
5. What message had the readers of 1 John heard from the beginning? (see 1 John 3:11)



Personal Study 1 John 3:1-24

We are going to spend a bit of time here on the story of Cain. I want to encourage you not to rush through this part, but to take time with this deeper look at what was displeasing to God about Cain and how his sacrifice reflected his heart.

Read Genesis 4:3-10

6. Read Hebrews 11:4, Cain's disobedience came from a lack of _____ which resulted first in disobedience, then hatred.

Go back from last week and read 1 John 2:16 first before answering the following questions

7. Which area of sin do you think was uncovered in Cain? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life?

8. Write below the description of Cain's response to God's rejection of his sacrifice, and look this up in several different bible versions to get the full impact. (Genesis 4:5)

9. How did God respond to Cain's pride and anger, and what warning was Cain given? (Genesis 4:6-7)

10. Personal question to ponder: Has God ever warned you about a choice you might be about to make that would bring harm upon you? If yes, did you obey?

Personal Study 1 John 3:1-24

11. Read 1 John 3:14-16, and summarize what love is supposed to look like based on John's words here:

12. Look at the following verses and add to your definition of what love looks like:

Romans 12:10

Galatians 5:13

Philippians 2:3-4

13. How would you use 1 John 3:20-21 as a prayer to examine your own heart, and how does this restore our confidence before God?

14. Read 1 John 3:24; how do we know that He lives in us, and are you walking in the peace and confidence of that today?

If you don't have that assurance today, I invite you to seek Jesus as your savior. John closes this chapter with three requirements to walk as a believer, Believe God, Obey God, and Love others. I welcome you on the journey of believing, obeying, and loving.