

4 Week Study of 1 John

Week 1: Overview and Background

We will start our in-depth study of 1 John by reading the letter entirely, noting major themes, and researching the background. Here are the daily areas of study.

Monday: Pray and ask God to teach you through 1 John. Read all 5 chapters of 1 John and note your main impressions of the letter. What main ideas did John communicate? What stands out to you?

Tuesday: Research the background of this letter. Who wrote it? Who was the letter written to? Why was the letter written? What was happening in the church community during this time? Note any other questions you have about this book and look for the answers. If you have a study Bible, this information is found in the introduction and side notes of the book. Other good resources are Bible dictionaries and commentaries. Online resources include Blueletterbible.com and gotquestions.org.

Wednesday: Read 1 John again, but this time personalize it. Read it as you would a letter written to you from a dear and respected friend. Or imagine it as an email sent from your church to you. Highlight a few key verses.

Thursday: Spend time reviewing notes, key verses, and questions you noted. What is your overall impression of 1 John? What do you want to know more about? Pray and thank God for what He taught you this week. Ask for His help in understanding and applying what you learned so far.

Week 2: The Basis of Fellowship

Now that we have a good understanding of the background and overview of 1 John, the next few weeks will be spent looking at main themes of each section and a verse by verse reading. 1 John can be split in two parts. 1:1-2:27 cover the Basis of Fellowship (which we will focus on this week) and 2:28-5:21 cover the Behavior of Fellowship.

Here is a great introduction from a commentary by David Guzik of Enduring Word. "Most people understand that the important things in life are not the things at all-they are the relationships we have. God has put a desire for relationship in every one of us, a desire He intended to be met with relationships with other people, but most of all to be met by a relationship with Him. In this remarkable letter, John tells us the truth about relationships-and shows us how to have relationships that are real, for both now and eternity."

Monday: In 1 John 1:1-2:28, John outlines **the basis for fellowship** with an introduction (1:1-4), conditions for fellowship (1:5-2:14), and cautions to fellowship (2:15-27). Today, read the introduction in 1:1-4. What is John establishing about the truth of his account? Who does John say our fellowship/relationships are with in verse 3? Why does John say he is writing this letter in verse 4? Write down any impressions, things to apply, or verses to memorize. Pray about what you just read and learned.

Tuesday: Read 1:5-2:14. What are the **conditions of maintaining an authentic relationship** with God and others? List the action items and accompanying verses from this section.

Wednesday: Read 2:15-27. What are the **cautions to fellowship**? List the things John cautions that can hinder or misdirect authentic relationships with God and others.

Thursday: Spend time reviewing notes, key verses, and questions you noted. Pray and thank God for what He taught you this week. Ask for His help in understanding and applying what you learned so far.

Week 3: The Behavior of Fellowship Regarding Characteristics

Now we will move our study from the basis to the **behavior of fellowship**. This week we will learn about characteristics of fellowship with God and others in verses 2:28-4:6.

Monday: Read verses 2:28-3:3. Who do these verses say we are now that we have confessed our sin, believed Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sin, and committed to obeying God's commands in our life? Take time to thank God for these verses and note impressions. Look up verse 3:3 in your study Bible notes or a commentary. What does this verse teach you? How can you apply the behavior characteristics detailed in these verses to your life and relationships?

Tuesday: Read verses 3:4-24. Five characteristics are described in these verses that distinguish between children of God and children of the world. Which characteristic is listed in verses 3:4-6? How about 7-10? 11-15? 16-20? 21-24? Look over the characteristics noted in these verses and spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas that need work particularly in your relationship with Him and others. Thank God for what you learned today. Select a verse to memorize.

Wednesday: Read verses 4:1-6. Testing spirits is an important characteristic to develop for believers. What do these verses warn us about? How can we sharpen our skills in this area?

Thursday: Spend time reviewing notes, key verses, and questions you noted. Pray and thank God for what He taught you this week. Ask for His help in understanding and applying what you learned so far.

Week 4: The Behavior of Fellowship Regarding Results

We will conclude our study of 1 John learning about the **results of growing in fellowship** with God and others through verses 4:7-5:21.

Monday: Read verses 4:7-21. What two results can we look for based on these verses? Spend time reflecting on these verses. What is God teaching you? How have you noticed these results in your life?

Tuesday: Read verses 5:1-12. What two assurances are listed in these verses? Look again at verse 5:4. What does overcoming the world mean? Do you see evidence of it now or a hope for the future? Now look at verse 11. How does this assurance of salvation comfort you? Who do you know who also needs this assurance?

Wednesday: Read verses 5:13-21. What two behaviors are noted in these verses first in 5:13-17 and then in verse 21? What did you learn about prayer? Take time thanking God for all your blessings. Ask

Him to show you anything that has become an idol in your life. Is there any gift you love more than the Giver? A comfort you seek above the Comforter? A created thing you value over the Creator?

Thursday: 1 John 5:18-20 has a nice recap. Take time to also reread the entire letter again. Look over your notes from the entire study. Note three main ideas you want to remember, apply, or rejoice in.