

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 6, 2005

Passage: 1 John 3:1-3

Memory Passage: 1 John 3:2

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 3:1.** What did John warn believers about in 2:28-29? Why would it be important for John to point these believers back to the love of the Father?

(b) What does John mean by “what manner of love?” Check some other translations. What is being expressed in similar terms in these passages – Matthew 8:27; Mark 6:51; 7:37?

(c) What is special about this love that the Father has given us (1 John 4:9-10; 4:19)? What do the following passages tell us about the love of God (Jeremiah 31:3; Deuteronomy 7:8)?

(d) Read Hebrews 12:18-29. What is the difference between our relationship with God in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?

(e) What does Hebrews 12:28 tell us about this kingdom that we have received? How should we respond to such a love as this?

(f) *Family:* Read 1 John 3:1 and 1 John 4:9-19. Talk together about the love that God has for His children. How is His relationship with us different from what it was like in the O.T.? What has made this difference?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 5:1-9.** What is the result of what Jesus has done for us? What word have we already seen in 1 John that talks about this (1 John 2:2)?

(b) Why does Paul speak about “this grace in which we *stand*?” How should this give believers confidence and assurance?

(c) How does understanding God’s great love in salvation affect the way we face trials and difficulties (Romans 5:3-5)?

(d) What is God doing in those trials (Romans 8:28-29)? Why should we trust Him in those times (Romans 8:32)?

(e) Read Romans 5:5-9. What is so special and surprising about God’s love for us?

(f) *Family:* Read 1 John 3:1-2 together and then read Romans 5:5-8. Talk together about the great love God has shown for us. Discuss how you would feel about doing something loving for someone who was *your* enemy. Talk together about how Christians are different from the world. Pray that each will be able to live as a child of God even though the world may reject them.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 3:1-2.** What is the world’s reaction to our saying we are the children of God? What are some of the things people have said to you when you have told them this? Why doesn’t the world accept us (John 15:18-19; 16:3)?

(b) What does John tell us that we are now? Why does he emphasize the word “now?” When does a person become a child of God?

(c) How does someone become a child of God (John 1:12; Romans 9:25-26)?

(d) What terms are used to describe the believer's relationship to the Father in these verses – 1 John 3:9; Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 4:4-7? What do each of these terms tell us about our relationship with the Father?

(e) *Family*: Read 1 John 3:1-2 and Galatians 4:4-7. Talk together about what it means to be adopted. What does Paul say those who have been adopted receive? Why do you think the Bible speaks of us being “born of God” and being “adopted as sons?” Spend some time thanking God for His amazing love.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 3:2.** What are we *now* and what *will we be* one day?

(b) Why can we not know what we will be like one day (1 Corinthians 2:9)? What should this encourage us to do (Matthew 6:19-21; Colossians 3:1-2)?

(c) How should this affect the way we approach suffering in this life (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17)? How should this knowledge motivate us today?

(d) *When* will this complete transformation take place (also Colossians 3:4; 1 Corinthians 13:12)?

(e) *How* will it take place? How can this change us? How are we changing even now (Acts 4:13; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 John 3:2 and Revelation 21. Talk together about heaven. What do they think about its description? Why is it so hard to describe? What are they looking forward to most of all? Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and talk about what God has planned for us. Pray together thanking God for making heaven for His children.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 3:3.** How should understanding this love affect us (Philippians 2:15; 1 John 2:28)? What motivates you to live for God?

(b) Why does he say, “purifies himself?” Is this something that we must do (Philippians 2:12-13)?

(c) Read 2 Corinthians 7:1. What does Paul say that we should do? Why should we do this (i.e., what should be our motivation)?

(d) Is it possible that some believers will not do this? What will be the result if they do not (1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 John 8)?

(e) According to 1 John 3:3, what should be our main reason that we want to be holy (also 1 Peter 1:14-16)? How does His love for us motivate us?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 John 3:1-3 and Philippians 2:12-13. Talk about how God works in us to change us and make us more like Him. When will this process be completed? Does this mean that we don't have to do anything? Pray that each will have a desire to be holy because He is holy.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Talk together about why God's love is so great. How does our understanding of how much a person loves us affect the way we act toward them? How should it affect the way we act toward God? Read Ephesians 3:14-21 together and pray that each person will understand how deep and wide God's love is.