

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 5, 2021

Passage: 1 John 5:13-17

Memory Passage: 1 John 5:13

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 5:13-17.** Summarize the “these things” John writes (v. 13a), which includes everything from 1:1-5:12.

(b) To whom is John writing “these things” (v. 13b)?

(c) Write down at least 5 ways “these things” bring confidence that those who believe have eternal life.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 5:13-17.** Verse 14 begins with “And.” How does this conjunction connect v. 13 with what follows?

(b) What “confidence” do we have (v. 14)? In other words, does “this” point forward or backward for its content?

(c) According to verses 14-15, how can we be assured of receiving that for which we ask?

(d) How do we know if we are praying for something that is “according to his will” (required for God to hear us)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 John 5:13-17.** What 3 groups of people does John present in vs. 16-17?

(b) Keeping the overall context of John’s letter firmly in your mind, consider the following opinions concerning the nature of “sin that leads to death.” Evaluate each one using Scripture and choose which (if any) is the best way to understand this difficult concept. If you think none of these options are satisfactory, explain and defend your better choice. “Sin that leads to death” refers to (1) deliberate (opposed to unintentional) sin (Lev. 4:2; 5:1; Num. 15:30-31; 18:22); (2) “Major” sins, such as murder, or what the Catholic church calls “mortal sin”; (3) Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:28-30); (4) Apostasy (i.e., a sin that causes one to lose one’s salvation); (5) Sin which leads to physical death (Acts 5:5:1-11; 1 Cor. 11:30); or (6) Intentional and ongoing rejection of Christ. Remember to use concepts & examples from all of Scripture that support or disprove each suggestion.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:13-17.** What are instances of “a sin not leading to death,” and how, specifically is it different from sin that does lead to death?
- (b) On what basis should we pray for a believer who commits sin in this category (keep in mind the context of 1 John!)?
- (c) Why does John say, “I don’t say that one should pray for that,” referring to sin that leads to death?
- (d) How do verses 15-16 continue the thoughts begun in vs. 13-14?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 John 5:13-17.** How does this passage reveal deficiencies in your current prayer life? How does it both encourage and fuel changes you need to make?
- (b) Are your prayers most often in line with God’s will? How do you know? How will considering this in the future change the way you pray?
- (c) What sins not leading to death do you regularly commit? How does this passage, and the truths found throughout 1 John, encourage you to stronger obedience in these areas?
- (d) In what ways do you doubt God’s love for you, that you have eternal life, that God hears your prayers, or otherwise struggle with assurance? How has what you’ve learned *and applied* from your study of 1 John increased your assurance? How has this increased assurance brought you confidence, joy, and greater sanctification?
- (e) If you have not been applying what you have learned (in concrete, obedient, and consistent ways), write down at least 5 specific applications you will begin to exercise in the coming week. Refer to your answer in 1 (c) if you need some help.

DATE: December 5, 2021**PASSAGE: 1 John 5:13-17***That You May Know (Part I)*