

The Abiding Life

Discussion Guide

Week of September 24 - **"True Assurance of Eternal Life**

Scripture verse: 1 John 2:3-17

LOOKING BACK:

1. Last week's verses focused on two primary thoughts—living in the light of Jesus and confessing our sin to Him.
2. Were there specific practices shared in our group time that made it easier to incorporate confession into your daily life?
3. Did you use the Steps to Confession or Language of Confession tools in the sermon resources? How did that go? What benefit did you receive from using either of those or both?
4. How did consistent confession impact your mindset or your intimacy with the Lord?

OPENING QUESTION: Imagine being the parent of a child who despises his or her sibling. Overall, the child is very respectful, attentive, and loving, but absolutely cannot tolerate his or her sibling. As the parent, how would that hatred towards another – one of your other kids—feel? How might you direct that child to live out this relationship with that sibling?

LOOKING UP:

1. Have someone in the group read 1 John 2:3-17.
2. This is another passage where John gives two clearcut instructions. What does he list out for us as believers? (*Loving our brothers/sisters and NOT loving the world.*)

3. When John says *brothers and sisters*, we know he doesn't just mean biological relations. Looking at your own life, which brothers and sisters have you begrudged or despised? What caused those feelings?
4. How can you love a brother or sister in Christ well? How does it look even when it might be difficult?
5. Take a moment of silent reflection as a group. Pray and ask God to bring to each person's mind who they can love better. Ask Him how each person can tangibly or emotionally show love.

<p>READ THE PASSAGE 1 John 2:3-17</p> <p>Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What stood out to you most? 2. What was challenging or hard to understand? 3. What does this teach us about God? 4. What does this teach us about people? 	<p>RE-READ THE PASSAGE</p> <p>Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions</p>
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LOOKING FORWARD:

Let's take a closer look at verses 12-17.

1. Here we are given words of reassurance. Going around the room, name each group that is addressed in these verses.
2. What words of assurances are given?
 - a. *Your sins are forgiven.*
 - b. *You've known Him who has been from the beginning.*
 - c. *You've conquered the evil one.*
 - d. *You are strong and the word of God resides in you.*

3. What hope are we given in verse 17? How should this truth cause us to respond to the temptations in the world (v. 16) that we face every day? How should it impact our relationships with people who don't know Christ?
4. During the time before we meet next, take inventory of any fellow believers that you may dislike or avoid. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you change your attitude toward that person or persons. Do you believe the truth of v. 17? Is tonight the time to believe Jesus' assurance of eternal life with Him? Is there someone in your circle you need to tell about this assurance? Pray for the boldness to speak to him or her? Next time, let's share how God worked in these areas of our life.
5. Close in prayer thanking God for His word and instruction found in our passage this session. Thank Him for the rich discussion that has happened during your time.