

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

I JOHN - BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

Lesson 1

Welcome to the Women's Bible Study. It will be exciting to learn and grow together as we study the Epistle of I John. This letter addressed to Christians at the close of the first century A.D. is timeless in revelation and application to Christians of all centuries. Keep in mind as you read this letter that those Christians of A.D. 90 were flesh and blood real people, living in a fallen world and morally bankrupt culture similar to ours today. The message declared unto them is declared unto us as we near the end of this century.

There are transforming truths contained in this I John letter that are meant to expose our pretensions and impact our life so that we will not only believe like a Christian but behave like a Christian. This letter was written both to challenge and assure, to convict and encourage. Begin this study with a prayer asking the Lord to open your eyes and ears, mind and heart to the wondrous things of His Word.

*Your words are what sustain me;
They are food to my hungry soul.
They bring joy to my heart and delight me.*

FIRST DAY: Background

1. The Apostle John, under the inspiration of God (II Timothy 3:16), wrote the epistle of I John. John also wrote the Gospel of John, II and III John, and Revelation. John's life can be divided into two distinct periods - before Christ and after Christ. Get acquainted with John through the following verses by jotting down what is revealed about him:
 - a. Matthew 4:(18a), 21, 22
 - b. Mark 3:17
 - c. Luke 9:54
 - d. Matthew 17:1, 2
 - e. Mark 14:32, 33

- f. John 19:26, 27 *The disciple whom Jesus loved refers to John*
 - g. John 20: (2), 8
 - h. John 21:20
 - i. Acts 1:13, 14
 - j. Acts 3:1-8
2. After studying the verses above, how would you describe John?
- a. What impresses you most about him?
3. It is commonly believed that John wrote his first epistle approximately 90 A.D from the city of Ephesus. I John was intended to be a circular letter, written to Christians everywhere, especially those in Asia Minor. Its significance has endured through the centuries as Christians have gleaned from this letter its inspiring truths. John was very specific in explaining his purpose for writing. Record from the verses below John's goals:
- a. I John 1:4
 - b. I John 2:1
 - c. I John 2:26
 - d. I John 5:13
- (1.) Which one of these goals are you most interested in learning about? Why?

Challenge: I John is described as an epistle, a letter. A letter is intended to be read in one sitting, not a little at a time. Before you go on to day two, read this letter. You will be blessed as you get a grasp of the Lord's heart through John for His people. Share your impressions of what you read.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 1

1. Page 5 contains a chart titled *Key Words in I John*. Scan through chapter 1 and record in the columns, how many times each word occurs in the chapter. Do only chapter 1 today. This chart is designed for all five chapters of I John, so each word does not occur in every chapter.
 - a. The key word which occurs most often in chapter 1 is *sin*. What does this chapter reveal about *sin*?
2. What are the main points of I John 1?
3. What impresses you most about this chapter?

THIRD DAY: Read I John 2

1. Scan I John 2, recording on the chart on page 5, the number of times each key word is used.
2. Write a short sentence that summarizes this chapter.
 - a. Of the many subjects dealt with in this chapter, which one are you most eager to study more thoroughly? Why?

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3

1. Scan I John 3, recording on the chart on page 5, the number of times each key word is used.
 - a. The key word used most often in this chapter is *know*. List some of the things we can *know* from chapter 3.

2. Seeing that His divine power has granted us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 2 Peter 1:3 NASB God in His wonderful love has allowed us to *know* all that we need to *know*. Share in a poem or a few sentences your gratitude for some of the specific things that you are grateful that you *know* spiritually.

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 4

1. Scan I John 4, recording on the chart on page 5, the number of times each key word is used.
 - a. The key word used over 25 times in this chapter is *love*. Using the letters in the word *love*, write an acrostic (a sentence using these letters) that expresses *love*.

L

O

V

E
2. List several things revealed about *God* from chapter 4.
3. Now list the references to *Jesus* in this chapter and what each verse declares about Him.
 - a. How were you impacted as you paused to list what this chapter declared about God the Father and God the Son?

SIXTH DAY: Read I John 5

1. Scan I John 5, recording on the chart on page 5, the number of times each key word is used.
 - a. Once again, *know* is a key word. What has been revealed that we can *know* from this chapter?

REVIEW:

1. What do you think is the key verse for the book of I John?
 - a. Why did you choose that verse?
2. As you read I John you might have had some questions, or there may have been verses you were not sure you understood. List them here. You will hopefully have your questions answered as you continue in this study of this wonderful book of assurance.
3. So much of the news we hear or read today is depressing, infuriating, or unbelievably disheartening. What is the *good news* for you from I John?

Challenge: Title each of the five chapters of I John. Then give a title to the book as a whole. (You might want to review the key words from the chart to develop your titles.) Use the back of this page to record your titles.

KEY WORDS IN 1 JOHN								
Chapter	Fellowship	Light	Abide	Sin	Know	Love	Born of God	Write
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
Total								

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His Blood.*
-F.J. Crosby