

GETTING STARTED

As we near the end of our journey of reading and preaching through the Bible over the past 15 months, share specific ways that you have grown in your walk with the Lord. How helpful is it to be able to communicate the big picture story of the Bible?

- Read this quote from Irving Jensen and his study guide on The Epistles of John and Jude written in 1971. In what ways are his observations relevant almost 50 years later in the church today?

“The world today is at a low ebb spiritually. The teeming masses are without God and without hope. And when we measure the pulse of the Christian church today, we are alarmed – if we are honest. Laodicean apostasy is becoming more and more prevalent, rebuked anew by the Lord’s word of Revelation 3:17” “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” Christians who are alert to the alarming trends in the church today need to beware lest they panic and flee, throw up their hands, and cast away their weapons. God wants His children always to remember that there is no darkness so black that His light cannot pierce it; that Satan is not so strong that God’s Son cannot defeat him; that the believer is not so weak that God’s Spirit cannot empower him. These are some of the reasons for God’s including in the New Testament the epistles of John and Jude.”

DISCUSSION

- As you read through John’s three short letters, what are some of the key words that you see repeated? What are some of the key messages that you think John is trying to communicate through these letters based on the frequent use of these words?
- How often do you see the words “know”, “fellowship”, “light”, “love”, “life”, “truth”, “walk”, “false teachers”?
- How do these high-level outlines for 1+2+3 John and Jude summarize/reinforce your observations of these key words?

1 John

Fellowship With God – Seek It!		
Walking in LIGHT Key Verses: 1:5-7 Chapters 1-2	Walking in LOVE Key Verses: 4:7-8 Chapters 3-4	Walking in LIFE Key Verses: 5:11-12 Chapter 5

2 John

Fellowship With False Teachers – Avoid It!		
John COMMENDS the recipients for Walking in the Truth Key Verse: 4 Verses 1-4	John COMMANDS the recipients to Love One Another Key Verse: 5 Verses: 5-6	John CAUTIONS the recipients Against False Teachers Key Verse: 10 Verses: 7-13

3 John

Fellowship With Believers – Practice It!			
The faithfulness of Gaius Shows HOSPITALITY Verses: 1-8	The pride of Diotrephes Refuses HOSPITALITY Verses: 9-11	The good reputation of Demetrius Needs HOSPITALITY Verse: 12	The desire of John Commends HOSPITALITY Verses: 13-15

Jude

WARNINGS about False Teachers Purpose of Jude Verses: 1-4	DESCRIPTION of False Teachers Reminder of Jude Verses: 5-16	DEFENSE against False Teachers Instruction of Jude Verses: 17-23	VICTORY over False Teachers Doxology of Jude Verses: 24-25
Danger for Believers		Duty of Believers	

The word “*know*” is used over thirty times in 1 John. As you look for the occurrences of the phrase “*we know*” write down what is “known” in each instance. Which of these did you need to be reminded of in your own life this week? Explain why.

2:3 _____

2:5 _____

2:18-19 _____

2:29 _____

3:2 _____

3:10 _____

3:14 _____

3:16 _____

3:19 _____

3:23-24 _____

4:13 _____

4:14-16 _____

5:2-5 _____

5:11-13 _____

5:14-15 _____

5:18 _____

5:19 _____

5:20 _____

- Why does John tie the love of God so closely with the love of others?
- Share examples from your own life of ways you have both received and demonstrated sacrificial/unconditional (agape) love.
- Why do you think John ends 1 John the way he does in 5:21?

Based on 2 John ...

To walk in fellowship with God is to walk in the truth of God. But truth as a lifestyle does not stand alone; love must be added to it.

- In what ways are you “walking in the truth” in your home, neighborhood, and church? In what ways may you be compromising the truth?
- How do you respond when you hear others add to or subtract from what the Bible teaches about who Christ is?

Based on Jude ...

- What forces threaten the Church today similar to what is mentioned in Jude?
- Why do you think those who teach heresies often find followers in the church? What is the best defense against false teachers?
- In your own words, paraphrase Jude 17-25 as these verses apply to our lives and our church today?

PRAYER

Begin your prayer time with a focus on Jude 24-25 and these four divine attributes that have belonged, now belong, and will forever belong to God! Glory! Majesty! Dominion! Authority!

NEXT WEEK

Read Revelation