

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL WORK AND REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK Meeting John, the Letter Writer & Introduction to First John

KEY VERSE: 1st John 1:1

Pray as you begin your study at home or in your small group (over the phone or other “virtual” gathering with a few or even just one WOW sister during these weird days Covid).

1. For perspective on this lesson, recall a time when you were an eye-witness to a significant event, like a car crash you saw happen, or when someone you love exchanged vows at a wedding, or....

2. Read the passage: 1st John 1: 1—4

3. REFER TO YOUR “OIA GUIDE” for help in working through the passage (ahead of time if possible).

OBSERVATION: Consider the following

- What pronoun does John use to begin the letter?
- Make a list of all the words repeated in 1:1-2.
- Is there a specific person or congregation mentioned in this introduction?
- What word is used twice in these verses to describe how John/”we” were made aware of the “word of life”?
- Note the repetitions in verses 3 & 4
- What words are used to describe the participants concerning “fellowship”?
- What is John’s stated purpose for writing this letter?

“THEN & THERE” INTERPRETATION: Consider the following for understanding John’s ministry to his congregations in the 1st century: Consider the following

- What does the use of “we” indicate about John’s identity and authority?
- What does this repetition indicate about John’s purpose for writing the letter?
- Who might the letter meant to be addressed?
- Note what John does in response to this “life” what “was revealed”?
- What do you think John’s use of the word “fellowship” means?
- How sure is John concerning this fellowship?
- Why might the outcome of joy be so important to John as he writes this letter?

“HERE AND NOW” APPLICATION: Remember to be specific, think about a good way to be accountable as a means of grace and obedient as a way of participating in the “word of God”.

- How do Christians today “hear”, “see”, “look at”, “touch” the “word of life”?
- How is John’s response to the “word of life” still evident today in the Church? in your congregation? in you?
- Identify people with whom you have close “fellowship”.
- What is shared in common with these people?
- John longs for “joy” to be “complete” –what does this mean to you?

4. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION IDEAS

- After finishing the OIA study of the passage, summarize John’s main points in the passage together.
- Discuss in your small group what might be **helpful** in responding well to the passage.
- Discuss in your small group what might be a **hindrance** to responding well to the passage.
- Discuss in your small group the connects between the passage and the historical background and the ministry of John introduced in the large group teaching time.

5. END IN PRAYER remembering that 1st John is a “love letter” from the heart of God through John, a beloved disciple of Jesus to recall and clarify the person and teachings of Jesus, and to encourage, correct and guard the community of believers who have been exposed to false teachings contrary to the incarnate Son of God revealed in Jesus of Nazareth

WOW Preparation BIBLE study guide

The most challenging part of studying God's word is paying close attention to the text! This is even harder to do if the story or section of Scripture is familiar. Here's a way to slow down and really "hear the Word of the Lord" through our eyes.

"O" (observe) **SEE THE SCRIPTURE:**

Use your five senses....what's the atmosphere?

Who? What? When? Where? **EVERYTHING EXCEPT "WHY"**

Look carefully, observing the text for connections, repetitions, relationships, contrasts, and the like

Mark paragraph breaks if needed

What kind of text is the passage? (sermon, letter, narrative, etc.?) genre definition

Note the **context** of the passage within the whole work (what comes right before and right after the passage of study)

"I" (interpret the text in its own) **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURE:**

"Interpretation" is focused on the meaning of the passage in its own time and place. **"THEN AND THERE"** as if you were there when it "happened"!

Think about word meaning, ideas, phrases of meaning, over-all structure, and how ideas are built on and communicated. **ASK WHY...**

Again, think about the context of each section...what leads from one thing to another? What follows? **ASK WHY...**

Who is addressing whom and with what intent that is evident in the passage?

How is the Gospel anticipated or reflected in the text?

Is God as Father, Son, Spirit noted specifically in the text? Dynamically in the text?

Ask questions about the text....answerable and unanswerable....

What if YOU had been the person first receiving and reading this letter?

What would have struck you? Challenged you? Been meaningful to you?

What is NOT there? What options were possible, but not taken by the characters in the text? **ASK WHY...**

“A” (apply) **SUBMIT to the SCRIPTURE:**

“Application” moves you from the “then and there” to the **“HERE AND NOW”!**

What did you learn? Your did your group learn? What will you DO with the word “heard with your eyes”?

How might the passage speak to family life, community life, even globally?

Remember to pray before and after your inductive study of the text... listen for the voice of God within the text...God-breathed then and now again...connected...listen.

PRAY. Look. See.

Your study guide for each passage we study in WOW is designed to help you take notes as you work through O-I-A on your own and in your small group. The teaching time will add information for “I” and challenges for “O”

SMALL GROUP STUDY, Week ONE WOW!

1st John 1:1-4

(NRSV translation)

¹ We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—

³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Luke 5:1-5 (NRSV translation without verse references; **the numbers on the left** indicate the counted lines in the text. Always remember that the original texts of Scripture did not have verse numbers or paragraphs and should only be used for noting a place in the biblical text. In studying Scripture, ignore the markings and put things together based on context, meaning, continuity and connections)

1 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their **5** nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." **10**

Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet because of your word, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they **15** came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of **20** Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.