

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 6 - Children of God - [1 John 3:1-10](#)

Read the following verses in the New Living Translation or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

3 See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children, and we really are! But the people who belong to this world don't know God, so they don't understand that we are his children. ²Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

⁴Those who sin are opposed to the law of God, for all sin opposes the law of God. ⁵And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, for there is no sin in him. ⁶So if we continue to live in him, we won't sin either. But those who keep on sinning have never known him or understood who he is.

⁷Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it is because they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. ⁸But when people keep on sinning, it shows they belong to the Devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy these works of the Devil. ⁹Those who have been born into God's family do not sin, because God's life is in them. So they can't keep on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the Devil. Anyone who does not obey God's commands and does not love other Christians does not belong to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 6 - Children of God - [1 John 3:1-10](#)

53. Why doesn't the world know Christians? ([3:1](#))
54. What will happen to the children of God when they see Christ? ([3:2](#))
55. What kind of person purifies himself or herself? ([3:3](#))
56. What is sin? ([3:4](#))
57. Why did Christ appear? ([3:5](#))
58. How is a person who lives in Christ unusual? ([3:6](#))
59. What does it mean to do what is right? ([3:7](#))

60. What did John say about the person who does what is sinful? ([3:8](#))
61. Why did the Son of God appear? ([3:8](#))
62. Why can't the person who is born of God continue to sin? ([3:9](#))
63. How are children of God and children of the devil identified? ([3:10](#))
64. How do you reconcile the fact that Christians do sin with the statements that they cannot sin or keep on sinning?
65. How can we know that we are children of God?

Lesson 7 - Love One Another - [1 John 3:11-24](#)

¹¹This is the message we have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

¹²We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was right. ¹³So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

¹⁴If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. But a person who has no love is still dead. ¹⁵Anyone who hates another Christian is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them. ¹⁶We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. ¹⁷But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help—how can God's love be in that person?

¹⁸Dear children, let us stop just saying we love each other; let us really show it by our actions. ¹⁹It is by our actions that we know we are living in the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before the Lord, ²⁰even if our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹Dear friends, if our conscience is clear, we can come to God with bold confidence. ²²And we will receive whatever we request because we obey him and do the things that please him. ²³And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. ²⁴Those who obey God's commandments live in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Holy Spirit lives in us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 7 - Love One Another - [1 John 3:11-24](#)

66. What message had the readers of 1 John heard from the beginning? ([3:11](#))
67. Why did Cain murder his brother? ([3:12](#))

68. About what should believers not be surprised? ([3:13](#))
69. How can a person know that he or she has passed from death to life? ([3:14](#))
70. What is the result of hating one's brother? ([3:15](#))
71. How do we know what love is? ([3:16](#))
72. What question did the author ask his readers? ([3:17](#))
73. How should Christians love? ([3:18](#))
74. What is God greater than? ([3:20](#))
75. What is the result of not being condemned by one's heart? ([3:21-22](#))
76. What is God's command? ([3:23](#))
77. What is the result of obeying God's command? ([3:24](#))
78. How do believers know that God lives in them? ([3:24](#))
79. Why is it easier to love with words rather than actions?