

1 John 3:16

1. Walk _____ in your _____ from sin; God's _____ has
_____. (1 John 3:16a)

2. Walk _____ before Him; God's _____ . (1 John 3:16a)

Love
PERFECTED

WEEK 5
TRULY A BELOVED DISCIPLE

3. Walk _____ with others; God's _____ . (1 John 3:16b)

Conviction...	Condemnation...
is from God	is from Satan
is loving	is accusing
will be specific	is in generalized, sweeping statements
has the goal of repentance and restoration	has the goal of guilt and shame
looks to Jesus	looks to self
makes us want to change	makes us believe we can't change
has steps that can be walked out	is confusing, vague, uncertain
leads to life	leads to despair
ends in joy	ends in sorrow
leads to new identity in Christ	leads to old identity in sin
is a blessing	is a burden

*List compiled from resources of Desiring God Ministries, Mars Hill Church, and Proverbs 31 Ministries

DAY 1

Pray: Isaiah 54:10 says, “For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.” As you open in prayer, ask the Lord to help you to embrace His perfect love for you.

Memorize: 1 John 4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world.

Please read the verse several times emphasizing different phrases each time.

Study: Please read 1 John 4:1-6. Today we’ll focus especially on vs. 1-3.

1. What is the basic command that John is giving in these three verses? _____

2. Why would it be important as a believer to test the spirits? _____

3. Ephesians 6:12 says, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” How does our struggle in the spiritual realm seem to play out in the physical realm that we can see and touch?
 - a. In our relationships? _____

 - b. In our work? _____

 - c. In our communication? _____

4. Consider the following scenario: Someone in the church begins speaking out saying that Jesus was just a good man who lived for 33 years, but He was not really God. What are some pitfalls we can fall into with if we believe that person:

- a. In our relationship with God? _____

- b. In our relationships with others? _____

- c. Regarding the unity of the church? _____

5. At that time, false prophets were claiming that Jesus had not come in the flesh...that He was never really human, just a spirit.
- a. What are the implications to our walk with God if we deny that Jesus has come in the flesh?

- b. How is our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice impacted by the question of His human existence? _____

- c. What are some tactics that false prophets use today in the church to pull us away from Christ? _____

- d. How can we test the spirits to know whether or not they are from God? _____

6. What does "antichrist" mean (to help understand, please see John 8:44)? _____

7. What damage could an antichrist cause in trying to get us to believe his lies about God? _____

8. What place can God's word have in helping us to test the spirits? _____

9. What place does God's word have in your personal understanding of whether or not the things you believe are true about God? _____

10. Close this time in prayer, asking the Lord to open your eyes to anything or anyone that is trying to deceive you and keep you from following God. Thank Him that He gives you warnings from His word in order to protect you.

DAY 2

Pray: Ephesians 2:4-5 says, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved." Please take some time to thank God for His amazing gift of giving you eternal life, that no matter what takes place here on earth, you have the promise of eternal life with Him.

Memorize: Please fill in the blanks:

1 John 4:17 By this is love _____ with us, so that we may have _____ for the day of _____, because as He is so _____ are we in this _____.

Study: Please read 1 John 4:1-6. Today we'll focus on vs. 4-6.

1. What does John mean when he says that we are from God? _____

2. For a better understanding of this, please read Romans 8:14-15.
 - a. Who is called a son of God? _____
 - b. According to vs. 15, why do we not need to be afraid?
 - c. The word "Abba" means "Daddy." What does this tell you about your relationship with God?
 - i. How he sees you? _____

 - ii. How you see Him? _____

3. What hope does vs. 4 give? _____

4. What do you think keeps you from having a sense of overcoming at times? _____

5. Please compare vs. 5 with 1 John 2:15-17. Why is it important that we don't listen to the philosophies and teaching of the world? _____

6. Please share why the following philosophies of the world are in opposition to the Lord:
- You have to follow your heart and do what you think is right (See Jeremiah 17:9 and Proverbs 21:2). _____

 - Each person has his own truth inside of him. What's true for you may not be true for me (See John 14:6 and Psalm 18:30). _____

 - It's okay to leave because God just wants you to be happy and He doesn't want you to suffer (See 2 Cor 12:9-10 and 1 Peter 2:20-24). _____

7. Please compare vs. 5-6 with 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- Why does someone who doesn't know God not understand what the Bible teaches?

 - What does this imply about what we should expect from someone who isn't a follower of Christ? _____

8. What do you learn for your own life when you read that everything that is not from the Spirit of truth is a spirit of error...or lies? _____

9. Do you find yourself aligning more with the philosophies of the spirit of error or the Spirit of truth? How? _____

10. Close this time in prayer asking the Lord to reveal places in your life that don't line up with Him, and to give you the strength to follow the truth.

DAY 3

Pray: Zephaniah 3:17 says, “The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.” As you open in prayer, please tell God what you find in His character from this verse.

Memorize: Please fill in the blanks:

1 _____: _____ By _____ is love _____ with us, _____ we may have _____ for the _____ of _____, because _____ so _____ are _____ in this _____.

Study: Please read 1 John 4:7-12.

1. On the heels of talking about the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error, what is the command given in vs. 7? _____

2. What are the 3 reasons given in vs. 7-8?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Last week, you looked at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 for an understanding of love. Please write down all the things from those verses that define love. _____

4. Vs. 8 says that God is love. Please read your definition of love from 1 Corinthians 13, and put God's name in the place of love (ie. "God is patient and kind..."). _____

5. What aspect of love catches your attention about God? _____

6. What aspect of love do you see yourself struggling with in how you love God and others? _____

7. What reason in vs. 9 is given as to why God sent His Son into the world? _____

8. Vs. 11 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." How, according to vs. 10, did God "so love us?" _____

9. According to this passage, how much of our love for others is dependent on how much they love us? _____

10. Please compare John 20:29 with vs. 12. What do we have to strengthen our faith even though we can't see God? _____

11. As you close in prayer today, please tell The Lord what you learned about Him and how you will respond.

DAY 4

Pray: In Ephesians 3:18-19, Paul prayed that we “may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” As you open in prayer today, ask the Lord to give you that same strength.

Memorize: Please quote 1: John 4:17

Study: Please read 1 John 4:7-21 for context. Today we’ll focus on vs. 13-16.

1. In the Greek language, the word for “abide” means “enduring, unbroken fellowship.” Please read vs. 13-16 out loud, replacing the word “abide” with the words, “enduring, unbroken fellowship.” How does that help your understanding of what it means to abide in God and have Him abide in us?

2. Please compare vs. 13 with Romans 8:16. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our lives?

3. Can you share a personal example of how the Holy Spirit, referred to as our Comforter and Helper, has worked in your life in the following ways:

a. Helped you in your weakness (Romans 8:26)? _____

b. Taught and reminded you of His truth (John 14:26)? _____

c. Set you free and transformed you (2 Corinthians 3:16-18) _____

d. Grown His fruit in you (Galatians 5:22-23)? _____

4. In vs. 14, John, a disciple of Jesus, said that they had “seen and testified” that Jesus is the Son of God. What reason would you give someone for your belief in Jesus? _____

5. In light of James 2:19 which says that the demons believe in God – and shudder, what does it mean that we “confess” that Jesus is the Son of God? _____

6. What does vs. 16 say that we have come to know and believe? _____

7. What are the obstacles that come up in your life that keep you from believing the love that God has for you? _____

8. Please read over vs. 14 and 15. What connection do these verses have in our understanding of God’s love for us? _____

9. From these verses, what is something that you can do to help overcome the thoughts that sometimes creep in lying to you about God’s love for you? _____

10. Yesterday, we looked at 1 Corinthians 13 for a definition of love. Please use the words you wrote down for Q#3 on Day 3 to have a better understanding of what it means to abide in love. What do you learn about the connection between abiding in love and abiding in God, and having God abide in you? _____

11. Please close this time in prayer talking with the Lord about your desire to abide in Him, thanking Him for His desire to abide in you.

DAY 5

Pray: Colossians 2:6-7 says, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Please take some time to thank the Lord for your salvation through Christ and pray for strength to walk in Him. Please tell Him some things you’re thankful for regarding what you’re learning.

Memorize: Please write out your memory verse.

Study: Please read 1 John 4:1-21. We’ll focus on vs. 17-21 to finish out the week.

1. Please write vs. 17 in its opposite form...“If God's love is NOT perfected in me, then...”

2. According to vs. 17, what are some benefits to having God’s love perfected in us? _____

3. What insight do the following verses give you to understanding the phrase “as He is so also are we in this world”

a. Romans 3:21-22 _____

b. 2 Corinthians 5:21 _____

c. Philippians 3:9 _____

4. According to vs. 18, why is there no fear in love? _____

5. What fears do you have about God? _____

6. Do your fears about God line up with Romans 8:1? _____
7. For the following scenarios, describe how you would respond in fear and how you would respond in love:
- a. Someone you care for has spoken badly about you to other friends.
- i. Fear _____

- ii. Love _____

- b. A loved one is very ill.
- i. Fear _____

- ii. Love _____

- c. Please write a scenario that you are currently experiencing. _____

- i. Fear _____

- ii. Love _____

8. How can God's love sustain you in the midst of fearful situations? _____

9. Why do you think John so closely ties our love for God with our love for others? _____

10. What applications can you make for your own life from this passage in regards to:
- a. Your understanding of God's love for you? _____

b. The connection between fear and love in your life? _____

c. Your relationships with others? _____

11. Please close this time in prayer, sharing with the Lord what you learned about the connection between His love and your love for others. Confess any relationships that you need to restore and ask Him for the strength and wisdom to know how to approach that person (or people).