

Week of October 11 (Week #5)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “We Should be Called Children of...?” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.

- Read together 1 John chapter 3, verses 1-10
 - Spend some time sharing about the greatness of God’s love (v. 1) As John exclaimed, “How great is God’s love for us that we should be called children of God.”
 - Here’s an idea, have each person finish that statement with their own words. “How great is God’s love for ME that....”
 - Verse 9 offers a very strong statement about sin and sinning. Review and consider this discussion (warning this could get deep)
 - The impossibility of being born again (born of God) and yet “continuing to sin” or “going on sinning”.
 - Lead a discussion about the distinction between committing a sin vs. continuing to sin/practicing habitual sin.
 - Is there is distinction? (I believe there is.)
 - Here are some thoughts:
 - Committing a sin involves an “act that misses the mark” toward God or someone else.
 - If not confessed and not “taken away” by the Lord, such sins can be repeated and grow.
 - Continued sin is the fruit of the sinful nature:
 - Characteristic of a life of someone who has never experienced the Lord’s saving grace and mercy.
 - Or of someone who has experienced salvation in Christ, yet has allowed temptation and sin to once again bind and control them
 - With either scenario, a sin committed or a habitual sin continued, God’s love is powerful to forgive and cleanse. Confession and repentance is needed for forgiveness.
 - There are other themes for good discussion within these verses:
 - Why Jesus “appeared” and will yet “appear” (vs. 2, 4 and 8)
 - This is a good scripture passage to cross reference with John 3 (born of God and being born again)
 - The two barometers for being a child of God (v. 10)
 - One who does what is right (continues in righteousness rather than sin)
 - One who loves others