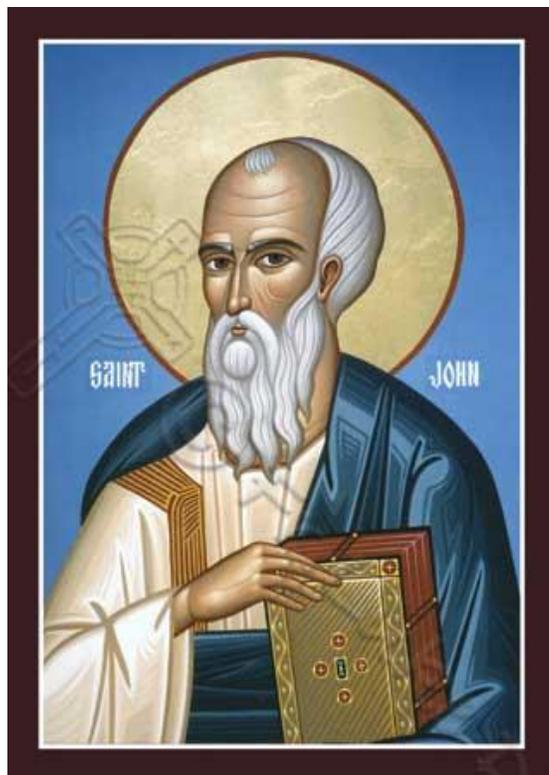


“Bona Fide”

Take Home Bible Study Answers



Peace and joy to you as you study 1 John! Below are some answers to the 122 questions in the take home bible study of 1 John (with a bonus study of 2 and 3 John). I pray that this study and your reception of the preached Word each Sunday blesses your life with stronger faith, deeper understanding and a closer walk with your Savior Jesus! Pastor Brand

Lesson 1 The Word of Life

Setting the Stage

1. Eyewitness testimony is an important way to establish facts in a court of law.
2. Since refutation of error can seem confrontational, some people may be uncomfortable with it. However, since the truth of the faith is critical to our life in Christ, others may welcome it.

We Have Touched the Word of Life

3. John the Baptist pointed Jesus out by saying, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Jesus washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:1–11). Thomas put his hand in Jesus’ side (John 20:27). John leaned on Jesus’ breast at the Last Supper (John 21:20, see especially the KJV).

4. By becoming flesh, the Word shows the value of the physical creation, and indeed he saves the physical creation. If creation were not valuable,
- a. the world and our bodies would be curses, not gifts, from God;
 - b. Jesus would only have *appeared* to die because someone who has no body cannot die a physical death;
 - c. the Lord would certainly not give us His body and blood to eat and drink because He would have no body and blood;
 - d. there would be no resurrection if our bodies had no value.

John's Opponents

- 5. a. 1 John 1:8: they thought they had no sin.
 - b. 1 John 2:4: they felt no need to keep God's Commandments.
 - c. 1 John 2:22: they denied that Jesus is the Christ.
 - d. 1 John 4:2–3: they deny that Jesus came in the flesh.
6. A secular worldview may lead people to a similar indifference about what they do with their bodies.

Fellowship

7. The Lord's Supper brings us into fellowship with Christ in His body and blood and with one another.
8. Fellowship means we are not alone, but we are part of a family. Membership in Christ's family brings with it not only companionship but also forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

God's Word for Today

9. When we rely on the eyewitness testimony of others, we have to believe what we ourselves did not see. Also, it is possible for eye-witness testimony to err. John assures us that his testimony does not err by stressing that he saw and touched Jesus.
10. The Word and Sacraments give us a concrete and tangible promise that God has accepted us. When we know how we stand with God, we are then able to tell others.

Lesson 2 Light and Darkness

Setting the Stage

11. Feelings that accompany sin may be diverse, such as guilt, numbness, or even a thrill.
12. The "right answer" is through God's Word and Sacrament, you probably wrote down some other things—spouse, Christian friends, fellowship, staying busy, etc. Many of those are valid, but please place Word and Sacrament at the top of the list.

God Is Light

13. To say that God is light means that He is holy and that sin is utterly foreign to Him. This could be terrifying since it means that He does not tolerate sin, but it is also comforting if we understand that through Christ, our sin is paid for and we can, with confidence, stand before God in His holiness.

14. Luke summarizes the Christian message in terms of repentance and forgiveness. When John says that “God is light,” he implies the necessity of both repentance and forgiveness since God does not tolerate sin. So both Luke and John identify the central Christian message in a way that recognizes that sin must be dealt with.

Walking in the Light

15. b. Someone who sins but confesses it. The answer cannot be a, since there is no one who does not sin. Neither can the answer be c, because John says those who deny their sin deceive themselves.

16. If we do not confess our sins, we deceive ourselves.

a. If we do not confess, we make God out to be a liar.

b. This is tantamount to saying God is the devil, since the devil is the father of lies (John 8:44).

17. I pray that, if needed, you would have confidence in me to hear your confession, apply the Gospel, speak to you the absolution, be completely confidential and completely forget about your specific sin.

18. Trust!

19. Most Sundays I say, “As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins”.

a. Even the Pharisees recognized that only God can forgive sins (Mark 2:7).

b. I am speaking not on my own authority, but on the authority of Christ, who through His Church delegates this to His called and ordained servants (John 20:21–23).

c. We have no doubt that our sins are forgiven because Christ has promised that the absolution spoken by the pastor is valid also in heaven.

God’s Word for Today

20. Whenever Christians are tempted to minimize or excuse their sins rather than confess them, they are tempted to walk in darkness.

21. To “walk in the light” is not so much about being holy as it is about confessing sins and receiving God’s rich forgiveness through Christ.

Lesson 3

Love and Hate

Setting the Stage

22. Some people try to know God by examining their own hearts, assuming that He reveals Himself there. Others try to use reason to deduce truths about God from nature or from philosophy. Still others think they can approach God through moral striving.

23. Some do, and some don’t. Especially the secular mind-set assumes that people should decide for themselves what is good for them; they need not consult an authority for this.

Jesus, the Propitiation for Our Sins

24. Jesus places His own blood and righteousness before the Father to plead for our pardon and acceptance.

25. It depends on how we view sin. If we see sin as something we shouldn't do, but we want to do it anyway, then it is possible to misunderstand the message of forgiveness as a license to sin all the more (see Romans 6:15). However, if we have the correct understanding of sin as something that enslaves us in darkness and death, we will rejoice to be rid of it when we hear the message of propitiation.

Lying and Telling the Truth

26. John says we know this if we keep God's Commandments. You may not always be comforted by this because this criterion can often result in mixed messages. Remember we are saint and sinner

27. These passages clarify that John knows that his readers sin. Therefore, John should not be understood to suggest that a sinless life is what gives us confidence that we know God.

28. Most likely, when John writes about the love of God being perfected in us, he means that God's love for us reaches its goal when it moves us to love our neighbor. Thus God keeps His Word.

Love: A Command Both Old and New

29. Leviticus 19:18 shows that "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" is a command present already in the Old Testament.

30. The new element that Jesus adds on Maundy Thursday is that we are to love one another "just as I have loved you." So Jesus' love becomes the perfect model of what our love should look like.

31. Jesus' love is totally concerned with the good of others. He is willing to die for people who do not deserve it.

Hate: A Life in Darkness

32. This was probably painful. We have cause others to stumble and others have caused us to stumble. Oh how beautiful it is in the body of Christ to hold each other up with love and concern.

33. John says that the Christian's response to hate should be love. This is because God has first responded to our hate and the hate of others with His own love in Christ. Once we appreciate how we did not deserve the good things we received from God, it becomes possible to give others good things that they do not deserve.

Do Not Love the World

34. John is referring to people, angels, and anything else that is opposed to God.

35. John is not saying that the physical creation is evil. God created it good, and John stresses how the Word of life came in a physical way (1 John 1:1; 4:2; John 1:14).

God's Word for Today

36. You and I do keep the Commandments in many way, but not perfectly. It is also possible to say that, in the eyes of God and through faith, we do keep the Commandments perfectly because Christ has paid for our sins and kept the Law in our place.

37. John teaches that we can have confidence that we know the Father when we see ourselves keeping the Commandments. Our ultimate confidence, however, comes from what God promises in His Word and Sacraments.

Lesson 4 Christ and Antichrists

Setting the Stage

38. Did you think of one figure of ultimate evil or many? Political leaders or false teachers in the church?

I thought of Joel Osteen, Oprah Winfreh, Rob Bell, Creflo Dollar, Jimmy Swaggert, Jim Jones, David Koresh, Sung Yung Moon, Arius, Origin, and Pope Pius X (the one who condemned Luther to hell)

39. Universalism (everyone will be saved no matter what they believe), License to sin (because we have forgiveness we can do what we want), God's good is evil and Satan's evil is good, etc.

The Coming of the Antichrists(s)

40. Antichrists come from within the Church but do not remain with the Church (1 John 2:19). They deny that Jesus is the Christ (2:22). They were apparently claiming some new truth that was different than what John's readers had heard from the beginning (2:24).

41. John's description focuses on what the antichrists say about Christ. The antichrists are not political figures who usher in worldwide destruction; they are false teachers from within the Church.

The Anointing

42. John is obviously teaching his readers as a father teaches his children. His point is that they do not need the teaching of the false teachers.

43. In light of the fact that John himself teaches his readers, as well as the fact that there was actually an office of "teacher" in the Early Church (see Ephesians 4:11), John does not mean to say there should be no teachers in the Church.

44. We need teachers to teach us God's Word.

45. We do not need teachers, however, to teach us some new message beyond or in contradiction to God's Word. This is what John's opponents were doing. So when John tells his readers they need no one to teach them, he is thinking particularly of this kind of teaching that goes beyond God's Word.

God's Word for Today

46. Any false teachers could be classified as antichrists in John's sense of the term. The Lutheran Confessions also identify the pope as the Antichrist because that office denies the Gospel of justification by faith alone and has claimed that everyone must be subject to the pope in order to be saved. (This claim was made in the papal bull *Unam sanctam* in 1302) However, this use of "antichrist" corresponds more to Paul's discussion of a single antichrist figure in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 than to John's discussion of multiple antichrists.

47. John tells us not to look for new revelations of the Spirit beyond the Word that we have heard from the beginning, recorded in Holy Scriptures. Therefore, the Scriptures remain the ultimate authority for any claim about what God says or does.

Lesson 5

Children of God; Children of the Devil

Setting the Stage

48. It can be attractive because it makes us look good if we can claim to live without sin.

49. We should react to God's demand for perfection in two ways: repent of falling short of it and receive forgiveness; make every effort to live according to God's commands.

The Father's Love for Us

50. God has given us His love by making us His children. Our love for others, in turn, marks us as God's children. The world does not know God. Therefore, it also does not know us.

51. There are times that I am a sarcastic jerk, not speaking the truth in love. Have you seen other tendencies that reveal my sin- some have said I am obsessed with football and hockey and golf and tennis.

52. On that day, we will see Christ as He is, and we will be made like Him.

53. We will become imperishable and immortal, and death will be destroyed.

54. When we think of our sins, we may feel shame. But when we think of the salvation Christ accomplished for us on the cross, we can feel confident.

55. John says that hope in Christ's salvation on the day of His return makes us pure. This is very similar to saying that we are saved by faith.

The End of Sin

56. No. "If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:10).

57. "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning" are those whose life is characterized primarily by sin. They sin and do not care that they do. Some people have their identity tied up in a sinful act, it defines their life. Ultimately they cannot remain like this and still be a Christian.

58. John certainly says that a Christian has sin (1 John 1:8), but a Christian does not make a practice of sinning, that is, a Christian does not allow sin to define his or her life, but rather seeks God's forgiveness.

God's Word for Today

59. I hope you wrote down a few good works that you have done. John says these things are evidence of being God's children (1 John 2:29). Also, God's promises to them in Word and Sacrament.

60. Since Christians do have sin (1 John 1:8, 10), there will always be contrary evidence when we look at our lives. Therefore, we find our most solid basis of assurance in God's promises in Word and Sacrament, they are constant, unmovable and eternal!

Lesson 6 Love and Murder

Setting the Stage

61. One common popular definition to note is that love is a feeling. Love is more than a feeling, it's a verb, an action, when we receive a loving act or word it results in a feeling.

62. Hate is a transitive verb, and mean to dislike somebody or something intensely, often in a way that evokes feelings of anger, hostility, or animosity.

The Example of Cain

63. Cain was jealous because God accepted Abel's sacrifice, but not his. God did not accept Cain's sacrifice because Cain did not "do well" (Genesis 4:7), that is, he did not offer his sacrifice in faith as Abel had (Hebrews 11:4).

64. John says Cain killed Abel because Cain's deeds were evil and Abel's were righteous.

65. Genesis 4:7 does note that Cain did not "do well." This implies his sacrifice was rejected because of his evil deeds. Both Genesis and John point to Cain's jealousy and anger over not being accepted by God as motivations for murder.

What Love Looks Like

66. Laying down our lives is the ultimate form of self-sacrificial love. But any act in which we put the needs of others ahead of our own needs is related to this kind of love.

67. As Jesus makes clear, in God's eyes hatred is tantamount to murder.

68. For John, real love is not a feeling but an action. Therefore, it makes no sense to talk about a feeling of love or a claim of love that is not backed up by action (see 1 John 3:18).

The Confidence That Love Gives

69. Love can reassure our hearts. Since it comes from God, it is evidence that God is at work in our lives. However, in this life love is not the clearest evidence because Christians still have sin.

70. To Christians who are not reassured by the love they see in their own hearts, John offers them the comfort that God is "greater than our heart" (1 John 3:20).

71. Confess your sins, and receive God's forgiveness for the sake of Christ.

God's Word for Today

72. I am glad you are better informed!

73. Selfishness. Narcissism. Stupidity (sin makes you stupid). Faith in Christ is the only answer!

Lesson 7

Spirit of God; Spirit of the Antichrist

Setting the Stage

74. Some churches, such as Pentecostal churches, claim direct revelations from the Spirit. Others, claim a more vague “leading” by the Spirit.

75. We should be evaluating all claims by the authority of the Scriptures.

Testing the Spirits

76. a. Deuteronomy 18:20–22: True prophecy must be spoken in the Lord’s name, and it must come true.

b. Deuteronomy 13:1–3: Prophecy is to be judged by its content. Prophecy that urges people to go after other gods cannot be true.

c. Matthew 16:13–23: Here again the issue is content. Jesus says that Peter’s answer, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God,” was revealed to Peter by God. However, when Peter tries to prevent Jesus from going through with His suffering and death, Jesus identifies him as Satan.

d. Galatians 1:8: No message that contradicts the Gospel can be true, no matter who delivers it.

e. 1 Corinthians 12:3: The spirit can be identified by what is being said about Jesus.

77. Aside from being made in the Lord’s name and coming true (if it is a prediction), we should judge all teaching on the basis of the Scriptures, especially what the Scriptures say about Christ.

78. Some deny that Jesus came in the flesh, so they think of Him only as a spirit being, as did the Gnostics. Others consider Him a mere human being and thus deny His divinity, as does Islam.

Overcoming the World

79. John’s description puts the mundane routines of our lives into the context of a cosmic battle. Humble acts of caring for our neighbor as well as witnessing to the Gospel are by no means insignificant; they are all part of God’s battle against Satan. We have comfort in that we know that God has already won the battle for us in Christ, and He allows us to share in that victory.

80. Even among Christians, messages of health and wealth sometimes gain a following, despite the fact that the self-serving attitude such messages foster is at odds with Jesus’ attitude of self-sacrifice.

God’s Word for Today

81. The sermon takes something that the Scriptures identify as a sin and in essence blames it on God by labeling it a God-given identity. This is an example of dealing with sin not by confessing it, but by denying that it is a sin. See 1 John 1:8–10.

82. God demonstrated His love for us not by tolerating sin, but by sending His Son as the propitiation for our sin so that it may be forgiven. Likewise, we show our love for God not by denying what Scripture calls a sin, but by affirming and keeping God’s Commandments (1 John 3:24). This does not mean that the Church should attempt

to persecute homosexuals, but the Church should address this sin like it would address any other: through the proper distinction of Law and Gospel (1 John 1:5–10).

Lesson 8 Love and Fear

Setting the Stage

83. Great empirical evidence that you and I are at the same time saint and sinners.

84. Walking in the love of Christ changes how we deal with everything.

God's Love for Us

85. First, God's love is something that can be seen. John says it is "made manifest." Second, God's love involved sacrificing His only Son by sending Him into the world to die on the cross. In John, the "world" is an evil place where the devil holds sway. Third, God's love gives life. Ordinary human love can also be seen, and in some cases it can be intensely self-sacrificing (see Romans 5:7). However, ordinary human love can never give life.

86. Our worth in God's eyes cannot be estimated on the basis of our love for Him. Rather, it is estimated on the basis of His love for us. That means that other people have this same worth.

87. John 1:18 says that the Son has made the Father known, and 1 John 4:11–12 says that God is made known through our love. Both are true, but the John 1:18 passage is primary. God's love in Christ comes first, and then our love.

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

88. Since we are not yet what we will be (1 John 3:2), we still find sin permeating our lives. For some, this may be a source of fear- place that fear at the foot of the Cross!

89. If we are secure in God's love for us, which He gives before and apart from our love for Him, then we can also view our own love as evidence of God's work in our lives. However, if we imagine that we gain God's favor by loving Him, then the imperfection of our love will always provoke doubt. God's love for us in Christ is our security and our comfort.

90. When John speaks of perfect love, he probably has in mind the perfection of love that we will possess when Christ returns. In heaven, there will be no fear or preaching about punishment. On the other hand, the Small Catechism addresses our lives here and now. Since we are both saint and sinner in this life, our works still have a dual motivation of fear and love. However, we can live in certainty that love has the final word.

God's Word for Today

91. Someone motivated by fear would say she has done her duty by going to church. She might fear that bad things will happen to her during the week if she skips a service. On the other hand, a person motivated by love goes to church gladly to hear and learn God's Word and receive His blessings in His Word and Sacraments. These blessings both inspire and enable praise.

92. A person motivated by fear may assume that honesty makes one good in God's eyes. Or, he or she may recognize that the consequences of dishonesty would be unpleasant. However, someone motivated by love practices honesty because God first gave him or her respect and love; in response, that person wants to behave in the same way toward others. Fear and love are both legitimate motivations, because they are responses to God's Law and Gospel, respectively but John wants to move the Christian to operate out of love.

Lesson 9 Faith

Setting the Stage

93. The title “Christ” means that Jesus has received an anointing by the Holy Spirit from the Father. This anointing sent Him on His mission to save the world. To believe that Jesus is the Christ, then, is to trust in the salvation He won for us through His life, death, and resurrection.

94. Jesus’ Baptism is perhaps the most important event that designated Him as the Christ because He was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16).

Faith and Works

95. I hope you agreed with Paul’s description in Romans 7, in which he expresses the difficulty of keeping God’s Law.

96. When we receive rest from Jesus, the forgiveness of sins, then the “yoke” of His commands are not burdensome because the threat of punishment has been overcome.

97. Faith overcomes the world because everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God (1 John 5:1). Since God has overcome the world through Christ’s death and resurrection, we His children share in that victory.

The Spirit, the Water, and the Blood

98. a. John 1:29–34: Jesus is baptized in water, and the Spirit descends on Him, identifying Him as the Son of God.

b. John 2:1–11: Jesus turns water into wine; this is the first sign (miracle) that showed Jesus’ glory.

c. John 19:34–35: Blood and water flowed from Jesus’ side. John emphasizes this fact but does not interpret it in this passage.

99. None of the passages has all three (Spirit, water, and blood). Jesus receives His anointing (became the “Christ”) at His Baptism, the water turned into wine shows His deity, and the blood and water flowing from His side highlights the importance of His death in God’s plan of salvation.

100. a. John 20:21–23: Christ gives the Holy Spirit to forgive sins in the absolution.

b. John 3:5: Christ uses water to give new birth.

c. John 6:53–55: Christ’s flesh and blood give us life.

God’s Word for Today

101. One possible answer is that because faith in Christ is victory over the world, we might experience less anxiety.

102. Not praying, not participating in this Bible Study, not reading Portals of Prayer, not contemplating God’s goodness, not giving Him thanks and praise, not seeing others as God sees them, not treating others as we would like to be treated, etc. etc. etc.

Lesson 10 Prayer

Setting the Stage

103. Do you keep a prayer list? Are you on the prayer chain?

104. Busy-ness, uncertainty about what to pray for, boredom, etc. Ultimately, our failure to pray or laxity in prayer is a faith issue.

Christ's Promise concerning Prayer

105. 1 John 5:14–15: God will grant us anything we ask according to His will.

a. John 14:13–14: Jesus will grant anything we ask in His name.

b. Matthew 7:7: If you ask, you will be answered.

106. When we pray according to God's will, we pray with the understanding that He knows better than we what is best for us. Therefore, we trust His judgment more than our own. That is why the three men in Daniel 3:16–18 could cheerfully contemplate the possibility that God might not deliver them from the fire. They knew that if God chose to act in this way, it would be the best thing for them.

Sin That Leads to Death

107. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and make God out to be a liar. This is tantamount to making God the devil because the devil is the father of lies. Similarly, the Pharisees said that the Spirit by which Jesus cast out demons was the devil. In both instances, God was made out to be the devil.

108. John does not give specifics, but we can say that sin that does not lead to death is sin that is forgiven. Sin that leads to death is sin that is obstinately denied, for which forgiveness is neither sought nor received. It would make no sense to ask God to forgive that kind of sin; the person does not want forgiveness. It would still be possible, however, to pray for the conversion of such a person.

Conclusion

109. The contrast between the devil (or the world) and God picks up all the dualities we have looked at in this study: light and dark, truth and lies, love and murder, and so forth.

110. One prominent feature in 1 John is the cosmic battle raging between God and the world. God has overcome the world, which will ultimately come to light on the Day of Judgment.

God's Word for Today

111. Every time I pray "thy Kingdom come" I am thinking about specific people, sometimes I even stop or stumble, which is a little embarrassing when the microphone is turned up.

112. Hopefully, the promises Christ makes about prayer in the Bible will encourage you to go to Him more often in prayer.

Lesson 11 2 and 3 John

Setting the Stage

113. Many times I feel the conflict when dealing with my children and my siblings.

114. The two extremes would be either to say that only love matters, so truth claims make no difference, or to say that being right is all that counts, so it does not matter how we treat people.

2 John

- 115. a. 1 John 2:15–17: John warns his readers against loving the world.
- b. 1 John 3:16–18: John warns his readers against failing to meet a brother's needs.
- c. 1 John 4:19–21: John warns his readers against hating a brother.

116. Gnosticism, a later heresy that had similar teachings to those of John's opponents, taught that the material world was evil. Anyone with this mind-set would never want to say that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, because that would sound like He became evil.

117. In the incarnation, Christ came down from His throne in heaven and took on human flesh to give His life for our salvation. This is the love of God that causes our love. As John says in his First Epistle, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

3 John

- 118. a. Matthew 10:5–15: The disciples were to stay with people in whatever town they go to and receive support from them.
- b. 2 Corinthians 12:14–18: Paul did not accept help from those to whom he was writing.
- c. 1 Thessalonians 2:9: Paul and his companions worked to support themselves even while serving as missionaries.

119. Supporting such people obviously helps them in their mission, and John tells us that it makes us fellow workers with them.

120. John says Diotrephes "does not acknowledge our authority" (3 John 9). This implies that he did not accept the message that John preached.

God's Word for Today

121. When John gives concrete examples, he focuses on caring for the needy brother (1 John 3:17; 3 John 8).

122. This is a false dichotomy. The truth of what Christ has done for our salvation is what enables us to love. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Therefore, any talk of love without truth is empty.