

# Study Guide



## 1 John 2:3-11 "Knowing that You Know" Sept. 18, 2016

### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional...

### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

### Word (45 Minutes)

In this study of 1 John 2:3-11 we will see two evidences of the fact that we have come to know Jesus in a saving way.

For more in depth study check out the following pages...

### Live Worship in the Annex

Please see page two for a letter from Pastor Tracy about a new service starting on September 25th in the Annex (Student Ministry Area).

## Walk Prayer & Missions

October 12-22—South Sudan  
December 18-28—South Sudan  
For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org)

## Calendar

September-November— [Women's Bible Study](#)

September 18th—Connection Group Starts

September 25th—Worship in the Annex

## Live Worship in the Annex

Hello Church,

I am excited to announce that beginning September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am we will begin offering a new worship experience in The Annex (the student ministry area). In this service we will provide live worship music and we will broadcast the sermon from the main worship center. Each week there will be a staff minister or pastor who will lead the service and we are committed to making this an amazing worship experience for all who participate.

This new worship experience is being provided in order to free up space in our existing 10:30am service. Since the beginning of school we have seen an approximate 35% increase in attendance at this already-crowded service. Many Sundays I see families standing on the back wall, during announcements and even at the beginning of the sermon, trying to find enough seats together for their family. This is a great problem to have but research teaches us that when a room is 80% full it becomes an invisible barrier to growth. We are well past 80%. Some Sundays we have discovered families who chose to worship in the coffee shop with the television rather than face the uncomfortable task of walking up front to find enough seats for their family. Last Spring many members were very gracious to alter their worship schedules by agreeing to worship at 9:00am and that service still has room for more growth. This new service will provide much needed room for growth at 10:30am as well.

In conjunction with this new service, beginning September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, all children first grade and older will first go to worship with their families until the beginning of the sermon when 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be dismissed to go to their classes. This will definitely return us back to the exciting early days of “messy ministry” but what a great challenge to face. My prayer is that everyone will be patient with the “messiness” we will face in the days ahead as we kick off this exciting new Live Worship in the Annex. May the Lord continue to make us a blessing to our community!

Serving the Lord together,  
Pastor J. Tracy Graham

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Jesus?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Be Thou My Vision](#)":

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart  
Not be all else to me, save that Thou art

Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence, my light

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou my inheritance, now and always

Thou and Thou only are first in my heart  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art

Great God of Heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heavens joy, O bright Heaven's Sun

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all

## Two Evidences of Assurance in Salvation

1 John 2:3-11 gives us two evidences of that fact that we have come to know Jesus in a saving way.

With confidence and authority, 1 John 2:3 tells us *"By this we KNOW that we have come to him."* This is one of eight times the phrase *"by this we know"* is found in 1 John. This statement is a promise that God's Spirit will always produce evidence to Christians that they are His.

Through keeping his commandments and walking in the same loving manner that Jesus displayed to all, the author gives us two prominent evidences of salvation through Christ. These two assurances should give us great peace and confidence.

Romans 5:2 tells us: *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Our union with Christ by grace through faith is the basis of our right standing with God, not our acts of obedience. Rather, our acts of obedience (which are also produced by God's gracious work within us) are the fruit of our union with Christ and evidence the reality of our union with Christ.

1 John 2:7-8 places the stated measure of assurance in the context of the old and new covenants. Throughout the entire Bible, keeping God's word has always been a reflection of truly knowing God as the Lord of our lives. However, the author is sure to remind us of the new covenant we have access to, paid by the sacrifice of Jesus. Luke 22:20 tells us: *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

In 1 John 2:9-11, the author gives his readers a single concrete and tangible example of how we can have assurance we have come to know God. Verse 9 says: *"The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now."* This is a direct and concise statement that applies to how Christians should interact with their fellow believers in Christ. In this context, it is believed that the word translated brother means a member of the same religious community, especially a fellow Christian.

The text reveals to us that **obedience to God's word and loving fellowship with others** evidences the reality that we have come to know Jesus in a saving way. May the Lord grant us an exponentially growing love for his word, his instructions, his wisdom, and his commands so that we can walk in his truth. With confidence and assurance, may we do what he commands and avoid his prohibitions. May he warm the affections of our hearts toward our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Sermon Questions

## What Does it Say?

1. According to verse 3 how can we know that we know God?
2. What does John say about the person who says he knows God but does not keep his commandments?
3. What other terms that mean the same thing as knowing God are introduced by John in verses 5 & 6?
4. In verse 9 what does John say about the person who says he is in the light but hates his brother? Conversely what does John say in verse 10 about the person who loves his brother?
5. Looking at verses 7 & 8 in light of what is said in verses 9-11, what commandment do you think John is talking about in verses 7-8 (that is old and also new)? Also look at John 13:34-35 to help answer this question.
6. So looking at this passage as a whole, what two qualities of life can help to give us assurance that we truly know God?

## Sermon Questions

## What Does it Mean?

1. How can you tell that verse 3 is talking about assurance of your relationship with Jesus?
2. John uses the expression “that we have come to know him” in verse 3. What do you think that means—to know about him, to know him experientially, to know him personally? Please look at Matthew 7:21-23 to help with this question.
3. In verse 3 what does it mean to “keep his commandments”? Does that mean there is no sin in your life? If “keeping the commandments” does not mean living a perfect life, what does it mean?
4. In verses 5-6 John talks about being “in him” and “abides in him”. How do these terms relate to “knowing him” that he used in verses 3-4? Also look at John 15:8-10 to help answer this question.

5. How do verses 3 and 6 make the same point, but use different expressions to make the point?
6. John does not identify which commandment he is talking about in verses 7 and 8, but it becomes evident in verses 9-11 that he is talking about the commandment to love God and to love your brother. How is this an old commandment (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18)? How is it a new commandment (John 13:34-35)? In what ways did Jesus deepen and extend the meaning of the commandments to love?
7. What does John say about the one who loves his brother? Conversely what does he say about the one who says he is in the light, but hates his brother? What is the significance of being (or walking) in the light versus being (or walking) in the darkness (1 John 1:5-6)?
8. Why does a lifestyle of loving God and loving others bring about assurance that we know God and have fellowship with him?

## **Sermon Questions**

## **How Does it Apply?**

1. What should you do if you are struggling with sin in your life and having doubts about your salvation? Focus on the gospel of grace and keep on sinning? Resolve to repent and change your way of living? Confess your sins, repent, and ask for God to help you fight sin?
2. What does a life look like that is characterized by loving others? What is involved in loving others like Jesus loved?

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in 1 John to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

## Model Answers

### What does it say?

1. We can know that we know God if we keep his commandments.
2. John declares that the person who says he knows God, but does not keep his commandments is a liar.
3. John introduces the terms "in him"(vs.5) and "abides in him" (vs. 6) which mean roughly the same thing as "to know him" in verse 3
4. John says that person who "says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness". Conversely in verse 10 John says that the person who "loves his brother abides in the light".
5. John is talking about the commandments to love God and love others that were taught in the Old Testament and were amplified and deepened in the New Testament by Jesus. Jesus said in John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."
6. If we see that we are progressively keeping his commandments and walking in love toward God and others, these things will help to grow our assurance of our genuine relationship with Jesus.

### What does it mean?

1. By this we know (we are sure) that we know him. To know that you know is to become assured.
2. To “know him” is to know Jesus experientially and personally. Matthew 7:23 says that God will say in the Judgment that “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.” God knew about them, but he did not know them. He did not fellowship with them; He was not close to them because they were lawless people.
3. To “keep his commandments” does not mean there is no sin in your life. John had just finished writing that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Keeping the commandments means watchful, observant, obedience. The one who is keeping his commandments is watchful and careful to do what God says because he trusts God.
4. Being in him and abiding in him describe a person who is living close to Jesus. That kind of fellowship with Jesus leads to knowing him and to him knowing us. If we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship with him (and with each other)(1 John 1:7). John 15: 8-10 also links keeping his commandments with abiding in his love just like Jesus obeyed his Father perfectly and abided in his love. Obedience is the fruit of abiding (or remaining) in a loving, trusting relationship with Jesus.
5. Verse 3 says that the evidence that we know Jesus is that we keep his commandments. Verse 6 says that the evidence that we are abiding in him is seen when we are walking in the same way that Jesus walked. These verses use different words to describe the same point—that the evidence of walking in fellowship with Jesus is obedience to his commands.
6. Deuteronomy 6:5 commands the people of Israel to love the Lord their God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might. Leviticus 19:18 says...you shall love your neighbor as yourself...” Jesus said he was giving a new commandment to his disciples in John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” They were to love one another as Jesus loved them. Jesus gave a new, richer, fuller meaning to love—his self- sacrificing love for us. He extended the scope of love to all, even to our enemies.
7. John says that the one who loves his brother abides in the light. He says that the one who says he is in the light, but hates his brother is still in darkness. Walking in the light means living in righteousness and walking in darkness means living in a lifestyle of sin. According to 1 John 1:5-6 one cannot be walking in darkness and still having fellowship with God.
8. God is light and those who walk in the light have fellowship with God. In these verses John says the one who loves his brother abides in the light; therefore the person who loves is in fellowship with God and knows God. When we see evidence of a growing love toward others in our lives, it brings assurance that God is working his character into our lives.