



Bible Books - Chapter by Chapter Series

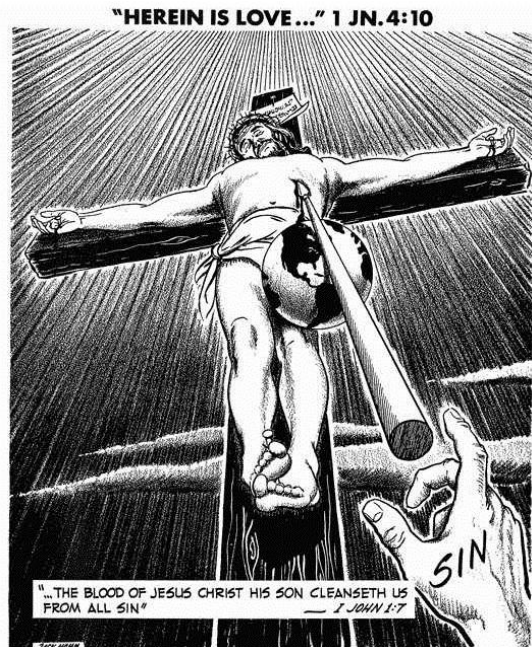
First John

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Lesson Topic

- 1 Chapter 1 – Life & Light
- 2 Chapter 2 – Light & Love
- 3 Chapter 3 – Love - His & Ours
- 4 Chapter 4 – Spirit Testing & Love
- 5 Chapter 5 – Water & Blood

In 1st John the apostle tells us that Jesus Christ is Lord and explores some of the most important implications of that. For me the most important truths from 1st John is that God really loves us, so we should love one another.



Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's chapter aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought" or just start the next chapter. Of course, you can always use the standard questions, "What would you like to remember from this lesson?" or "What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know before?"

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First John Introduction This little epistle was written by John the Apostle who also wrote the Gospel of John, II John, III John and Revelations. John was probably the last living apostle and the only one who wasn't martyred for Christ but instead died a natural death. This letter was apparently written late in the first century close to the end of his life. Many believe it was specifically written in answer to an early false teaching that said that Jesus was only a spirit, not flesh and blood. It may have been the New Testament book that was written latest in time.

Purpose of letter - John states the purpose of the letter in several different verses.

- (1A) Read I John 1:3 Why does John declare what he has seen & heard?. _____
- (1B) Read I John 1:4 Why does John write these things to us? _____
- (1C) Read I John 2:1 Why does John write these things to us? _____
- (1D) Read I John 2:26 What is John writing about? _____
- (1E) Read I John 5:13 Who was this book written to? _____
- (1F) Why did John write it to us? _____



Read First John Chapter 1 and answer these questions:

- (1G) Compare I John 1:1 with the Gospel of John 1:1-3. What was in the beginning? _____
- (1H) In 1 John 1:6-10 there are five conditional statements of the form if ____ then _____. What are they?

Verse	If This	Then That
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

(1I) Notice the growing deceptiveness in 1st John 6, 8 and 10. First we lie, then we believe the lie, and finally we call God a liar. Does this agree with any of your experiences? Please explain.

Think & Pray _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Purpose of letter:

- (1A) Read I John 1:3 Why does John declare what he has seen and heard. for fellowship
- (1B) Read I John 1:4 Why does John write these things to us? so that we might have complete joy
- (1C) Read I John 2:1 Why does John write these things to us? so that we might not sin
- (1D) Read I John 2:26 What is John writing about? those that seduce us
- (1E) Read I John 5:13 Who was this book written to? those of us who believe
- (1F) Why did John write it to us? that we may know we have eternal life

First John Chapter 1

(1G) Compare I John 1:1 with the Gospel of John 1:1-3. What was in the beginning? the Word

(1H) The final five verses of this chapter form a poem. It is not a poem like we have in English today that rhymes and has meter. It is not even a poem such as one would have written in Greek when this book was written that had meter. Instead it is in the structure of the ideas a Hebrew poem. Hebrew poetry is based on pairs of statements that mean a similar thing said two different ways or opposite meanings said in a similar way. This is called parallelism. The other thing about Hebrew poetry is true of all poetry in any language, it is full of figures of speech that makes the ideas more vivid. Hebrew poetry has a huge advantage over poetry in most languages because it translates more easily into other languages. The poetry in most languages loses much of its punch when translated, because it is too dependent on the sounds of the words. Most of Psalms and many other parts of the Bible are this kind of poetry. One of the main reasons I love the King James Version for reading aloud is because it does a great job of translating the beauty of the poetic parts of God's Word.

Verse	If This	Then That
6	If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness,	we lie, and do not the truth:
7	But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,	we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
8	If we say that we have no sin,	we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9	If we confess our sins,	he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10	If we say that we have not sinned,	we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

If you 'SIN' but no one is there to see it.. are you still.. **WRONG?**



Secular Humanist Philosopher Charles Windbag reflects on the human condition.

(1I) If we do something wrong, and do not accept it is wrong, then we start making up excuses. Eventually we start believing our own excuses. Yes, that is me.

For further thought:

- [1j] Read 1 John 1:1-3 again. Based on the gospels what are some of the things that John saw, heard and touched during his three years with Jesus that might have convinced him to believe in Jesus Christ?
- [1k] In 1 John 1:4 he says he wants our joy to be complete. Is your joy complete? Why or why not?
- [1l] In 1 John 1:5 he says "God is light." What does that mean? Compare with John 8:12 & John 9:5.

Read 1st John Chapter 2 and answer these questions:

(2A) John does not want us to sin, but if we do, who will be our advocate with the Father? _____

(2B) If we claim to know God but do not respect His commandments what are we? _____

(2C) If we love our brother where do we live? _____

(2D) If we hate our brother where do we live? _____

(2E) There is another little Hebrew poem in chapter 2. Can you pick it out? Verses: _____

(2F) Compare 1st John 2:16 with Genesis 3:6 where Eve fell into sin.

Match these three items from the two verses:

1st John 2:16

- lust of the eyes
- lust of the flesh
- pride of life

Genesis 3:6

- desired to make one wise
- good for food
- pleasant to the eyes

(2G) Who will live forever? _____

(2H) What has the Lord promised us? _____

(2I) In chapter 2 it talks about an old and a new commandment. What is he talking about?

Think & Pray _____

WALK IN THE LIGHT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
- 1 JOHN 1:7 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

I John Chapter 2

(2A) John does not want us to sin, but if we do, who will be our advocate with the Father?

Jesus Christ the Righteous 1Jn 2:1

(2B) If we claim to know God but do not respect His commandments what are we? liars 1Jn 2:4

(2C) If we love our brother where do we live? In the light 1Jn 2:10

(2D) If we hate our brother where do we live? In the darkness 1Jn 2:11

(2E) There is another little Hebrew poem in chapter 2. Can you pick it out? Verses 12, 13 and 14

Interestingly, it also takes the form of a poem in Greek, with matching meter similar to English blank verse.

(2F) Compare 1Jn 2:16 with Genesis 3:6 where Eve fell into sin. Match these three items from the two verses:

1st Jn 2:16	Genesis 3:6
lust of the flesh	good for food
lust of the eyes	pleasant to the eyes
pride of life	desired to make one wise

(2G) Who will live forever? He who does the will of God 1Jn 2:17

(2H) What has the Lord promised us? Eternal life 1Jn 2:25

(2I) God does not change. He as always wanted us to love each other. The only difference is now, He has shown us how to do that, through Jesus Christ.

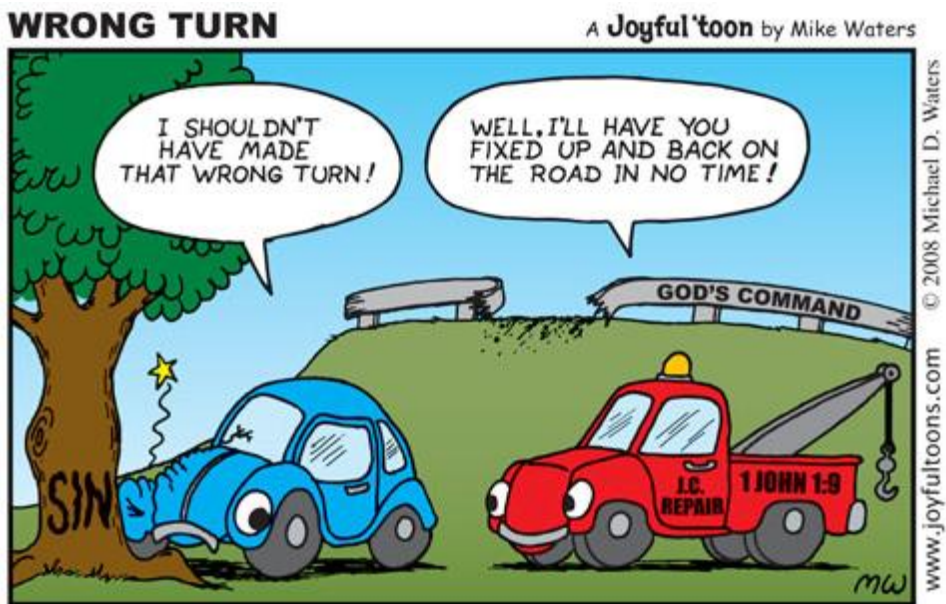
For further thought:

[2j] In First John 2:10 it talks about walking in the light. What does that mean? Compare with 1 John 1:5, John 12:46 and John 15:7.

[2k] Compare First John 2:16 & Genesis 3:6 with Matthew 4:1-11. Is Jesus tempted in the same three ways? How does He overcome temptation?

[2l] Which of the three temptations listed in First John 2:16 is most difficult for you? Why?

[2m] Is the promise in First John 2:25 conditional or unconditional? How do you know?



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- 1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

Read First John Chapter 3 and answer these questions:

- (3A) What are we called? _____
- (3B) If our hope is in the Lord what do we do? _____
- (3C) Why did the Son of God appear? _____
- (3D) Those who commit sin are *of* whom? _____
- (3E) What message have we heard from the beginning? _____
- (3F) What should not surprise us? _____
- (3G) What are we if we hate our brothers? _____
- (3H) How can we know the love of God in Jesus Christ? _____
- (3I) How does John describe real love? _____
- (3J) What are the two commandments listed in this chapter.

(3K) Is 1st John 3:21-22 a promise? What are the conditions of the promise being kept?

Think & Pray _____

HOPE SOAP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. - 1 JOHN 3:2,3 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

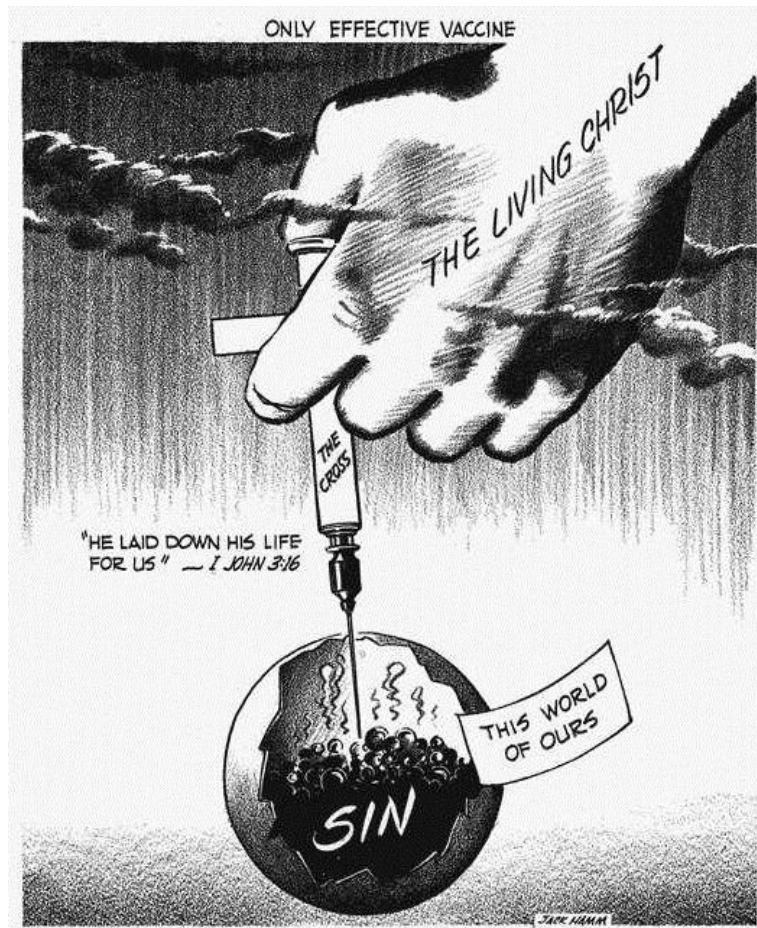
First John Chapter 3

- (3A) What are we called? Sons of God or children of God 1Jn 3:1-2
- (3B) If our hope is in the Lord what do we do? We purify or cleanse ourselves. 1Jn 3:3
- (3C) Why did the Son of God appear? to destroy the works of the devil 1Jn 3:8
- (3D) Those who commit sin are of whom? the devil 1Jn 3:8-10.
- (3E) What message have we heard? we should love one another 1Jn 3:11
- (3F) What should not surprise us? when the world hates us 1Jn 3:13
- (3G) What are we if we hate our brothers? A murderer 1Jn 3:15
- (3H) How can we know the love of God in Jesus? He laid down his life for us. 1Jn 3:16
- (3I) How does John describe real love? loving in deed (or action) and truth 1Jn 3:18
- (3J) What are the two commandments listed in this chapter.
believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another. 1Jn 3:23

(3K) I think that 1st John 3:21-22 means that if we obey God and do what pleases Him, our clean conscience will make us confident that He will hear and answer our prayers.

For further thought:

- (3l) In 1 John 3:21-22 does our obedience just give us confidence, or does our obedience also influence God to be more likely to answer our prayers?
- (3m) Does 1Jn 3:18-20 imply that God will answer our prayers even when we misbehave?
- (3n) Compare 1Jn 3:18 with Matthew 21:28-32. Which kind of child of God are you?

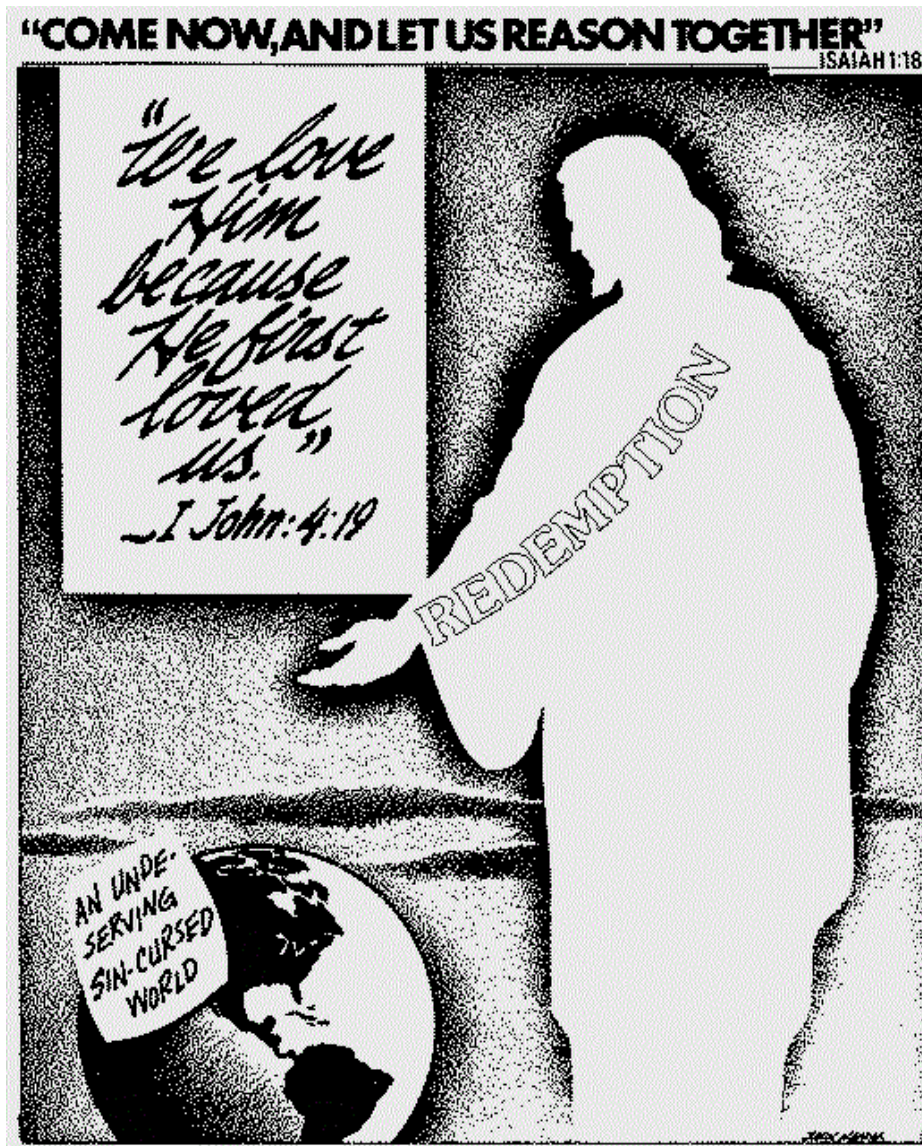


Read 1st John Chapter 4 and answer these questions:

- (4A) Why are we not to trust every spirit? _____
- (4B) How do we test if a spirit is from God? _____
- (4C) What is God? _____
- (4D) What does perfect or complete love do to fear? _____
- (4E) Who loved us before we loved? _____
- (4F) He who loves God is also supposed to do what? _____

(4G) What does John mean by antichrist 1st John 4:3? Compare with 1Jn 2:18 & 22.

Think & Pray _____



----- ANSWERS -----

I John Chapter 4

- (4A) Why are we not to trust every spirit? Because there are many false prophets 1Jn 4:1
(4B) How do we test if a spirit is from God? by what they say about Jesus Christ 1Jn 4:2-3
(4C) What is God. God is love. 1Jn 4:8 and 1Jn 4:16
(4D) What does perfect or complete love do to fear? perfect love casts out or drives fear away 1Jn 4:18
(4E) Who loved us before we loved? God 1Jn 4:19
(4F) He who loves God is also supposed to do what? love his brother 1Jn 4:21

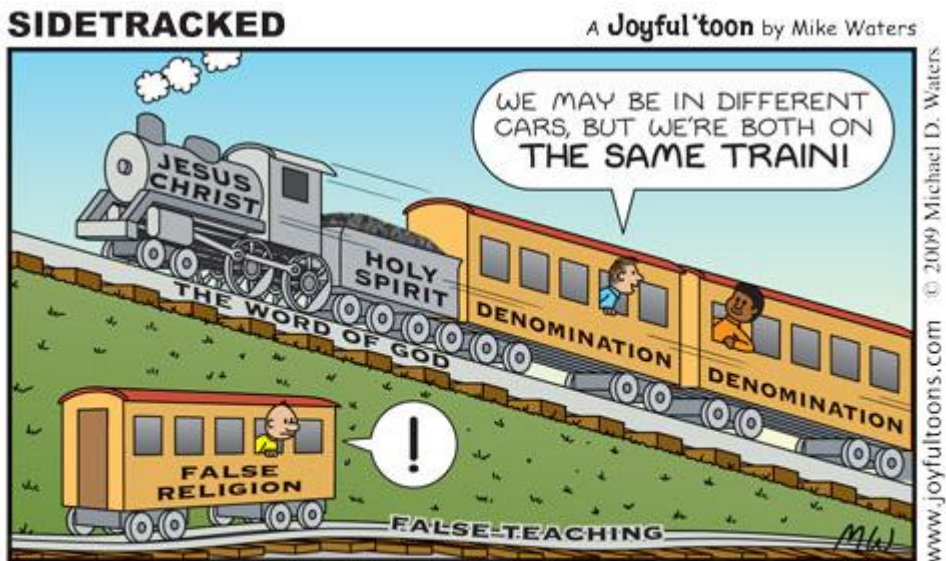
(4G) *An antichrist is anyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. The Antichrist is a fake messiah Satan will one day use to try to deceive us.*

For further thought:

[4h] We usually think of The Antichrist in relation to Revelations, but the term does not appear in that book. How do you suppose it got attributed to Revelations instead of here where it is most often mentioned, this book. I could only find this term in 1st and 2nd John.

[4i] 1st John 4:1-6 outlines a process for not being deceived. How does this work? Can you think of any practical examples from your own life?

[4j] 1st John 4:15 has a conditional promise from God. Have you met the conditions for this promise? Is God keeping this promise for you? How do you know?



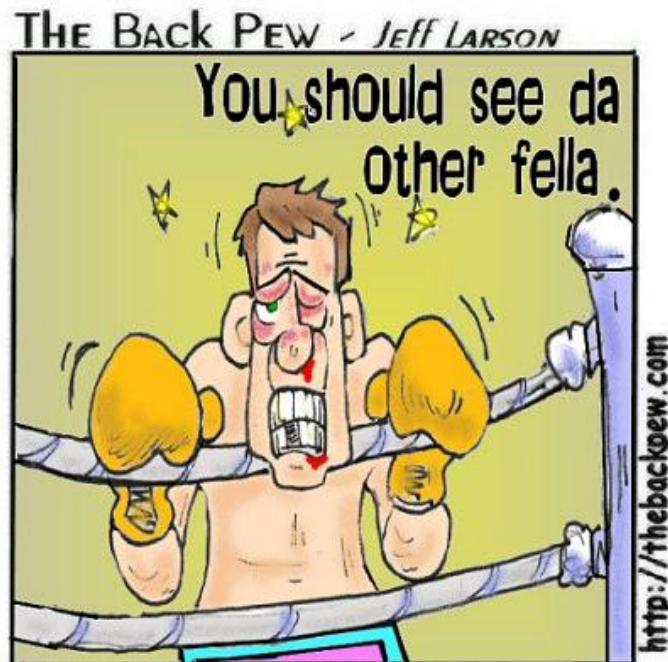
This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. — 1 JOHN 4: 2-3 NIV

Read I John Chapter 5 and answer these questions:

- (5A) If we love God what will we do? _____
- (5B) What is the victory that overcomes the world? _____
- (5C) There is a little Hebrew poem in this chapter as well. Can you pick it out?
Verses _____ (Hint: It only appears in some versions, like the King James Version)
- (5D) When can we be sure our prayers are heard? _____
- (5E) What is all unrighteousness? _____
- (5F) Where does understanding come from? _____
- (5G) What does First John 5:14-15 mean by "according to His will?"
- Think & Pray* _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

For further thought about the book of First John as a whole:

- [5x] Which verse would you select to memorize from this book?
- [5y] What was the most interesting thing you learned while studying this book?
- [5z] If someone asked you what I John was about what would you say?



On the Ropes.. but not out.
When life becomes a fight.. know with
God in your corner.. **YOU WILL WIN.**
.. *greater is he that is in you, than he
that is in the world.* **1 John 4:4**

----- ANSWERS -----

I John Chapter 5

(5A) If we love God what will we do? keep his commandments 1Jn 5:1-3

(5B) What is the victory that overcomes the world? our faith 1Jn 5:4

(5C) There is a little Hebrew poem in this chapter as well. Can you pick it out? Verses 7 and 8

v7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

v8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

(5D) When can we be sure our prayers are heard? When we ask according to His will. 1Jn 5:14-15

(5E) What is all unrighteousness? sin 1Jn 5:17

(5F) Where does understanding come from? God gives it to us 1Jn 5:20

(5G) I think he is just repeating what he said in 1Jn 3:21-22. The more like Jesus Christ we become the more we will want the same things He wants. When we start asking God for what He wants instead of what we want, what else is going to happen besides answered prayer?

For further thought:

[5h] Compare 1Jn 5:14-15 & 1Jn 3:21-22 with the story of Elijah's answered prayer in 1st Kings 18. In 1Kg 18:1 God tells him to expect rain. In 1Kg 18:42-46 he prays until God sends rain. Is that an example of praying for God's will? (We know he prayed for rain from James 5:17-18)

[5i] Compare 1Jn 5:14-15 & 1Jn 3:21-22 with James 5:13-16. What is the same? What is different?

