

CORE COMPETENCIES

Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- **Authority of Bible**
"I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action."
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

Core Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility

Well, what do you know? You can read or say those five words in a number of different ways, can't you? (Go ahead, try it, putting emphasis on different words as you say them.) We even have phrases like, "Well, you never know..." or "You don't know what you don't know until you really know"—if that makes any sense at all. But knowing something as critical as where we stand with Jesus, that's a different matter. What we are offered in this letter of 1 John is a kind of knowing—a knowing that transcends awareness or accessing information. We can call it assurance, confidence, or even knowing it all the way down in our gut. But that's the kind of knowing that we're after. Let me encourage you to look deeply at how we access this kind of knowing—what it takes and where we get it. So then we can really know. You know what I mean?

On the journey,

Richard Gotthardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation

If you are new to using the Engage:

There is a short guide that will give you the "Who, Why, What, and How" of using the *Engage* study Guide. You may access it through the Grace Community Church web site at (www.gracecommunityaz.org). (Access the Spiritual Formation Ministry page and click "Resources" on the left panel.)

Review from last week's study of 1 John 1:1-2:2:

The nature of God is **light**, not darkness - **truth**, not falsehood. If we claim to be vitally connected and in fellowship with God and at the same time ignore or trivialize our sin, we are lying and deceiving ourselves. In order to remain in **fellowship** with God and others in God's family, we must deal truthfully with our **sin**. We must acknowledge it, say the same thing that God says about it and receive the grace and forgiveness that comes only by and through **Jesus' sacrifice** on our behalf.

Memory Verse for this week

"We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands."

1 John 2:3

Day 1 (1 John 2:3-17)

Begin with prayer, asking God to give you ears to hear and a heart that is open and desiring to know Him better and love Him more!

Read through the passage and mark every reference to *God* and to *Jesus* (including any pronouns or synonyms). Some passages can be difficult to discern which pronoun refers to God and which to Jesus. Try to use the context to help you and remember that oftentimes the pronoun will refer to the last used proper noun. If in doubt, don't worry about it, just record what is obvious to you.

Once you have marked these words, add to last week's lists everything that the text reveals to you about *God* or *Jesus*. Include anything that answers a "who, what, when, where, why, or how" question.

As you reflect on the truths that you have seen about God and Jesus and keeping in mind the author's purpose for writing (that they would know they had eternal life), list below what you observe from this passage that could be indicators in our knowing "that we have come to know Him."

Before you stop, take a few minutes to thank God for including in His Word to us, a book that was written to help us be assured of the salvation He provided! Ask Him to continue to open your eyes to see all He wants you to know!

Day 2 (1 John 2:3-17)

Pray first!

Today, continue to observe the passage by marking key words and listing those things that God reveals to you. Remember to actually read the text, not just look for certain words! The marking of these words aids your study in at least three ways: it forces you to read the passage multiple times, it slows down your reading so you can more carefully observe the details, and because you have more carefully observed the details, it helps you to more accurately interpret the meaning of the passage within the context and to apply the truth that is revealed to your life.

If you have not already marked these words while doing the first week's Overview lesson on 1 John, mark in a distinctive color or symbol the following words and any synonyms that appear **in this week's passage**.

light, sin

Last week we saw in chapter one, the contrast John draws between light and darkness. He continues with that contrast in our passage this week. Using your markings of the word *light* in this week's passage, list below the contrasts you observe concerning light and darkness.

Look back at 1 John 1:5-7. What truths do you see about God and the light that help you to better understand the significance of light and darkness in the life of a believer?

In last week's lesson we looked extensively at the key word *sin*. In our passage for this week *sin* is only used one time, but since it will continue to be a key word and theme throughout the book of 1 John, begin a list on a separate sheet of paper where you will record everything you learn (who, what, when, where, why, how) concerning sin. We will add to this list in the weeks to come, and if you have the time, it would be good to go back to last week's lesson (Day 3), and add the things that you recorded there as well.

The phrase "if we say" was used repeatedly in Chapter one, and we observed that it is essential for our words and actions to line up. In this week's passage, the phrase "*the one who says*" [*claims* in the NIV] is used three times. Note what is being "said/claimed" in verses 4, 6, 9.

Next to what is being "said/claimed," note what action must be present in order for the words to be true.

Day 3 (1 John 2:3-17)

Pray first! One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to guide you into all truth. He is called the Spirit of Truth. So pray that your Teacher, the Spirit of Truth, will guide you into all truth as you do your lesson today (John 16:13).

Three key words in the book of 1 John, which you marked in the Overview lesson, are used for the first time in chapter two. If you have not already marked these words (and their synonyms and pronouns) during the overview lesson, you will begin to mark them this week. Be sure to also add them to your Key Words bookmark along with your distinctive marking symbol or color. These words will continue to appear throughout 1 John, and so you will start lists this week that you will add to throughout our study of 1 John. These lists should contain all that God reveals to you that would answer “who, what, when, where, why, or how” in regard to that word. Use a separate sheet of paper for each word and its list.

The first word you will mark is *know*. But before you start, read through the box below, entitled Engaging with the Greek. Familiarize yourself with the distinctions of each Greek word translated as *know* or *known*. You may want to select slightly different markings for each Greek word, so that as you are reading the text, you have a clearer understanding of the intended definition for that particular word.

know, abide [the NIV uses *lives, remain, or continued*], *love*

Once you have completed your markings, take a sheet of paper and make two columns. Entitle the first column, “What I Can Know” and the second, “How I Can Know It.” Then using the words from the text, record what God is revealing to you from this passage.

Next use your marking of the word *abide* [*lives, remain, continued*] to record on your list, all that you observe about abiding. Use the 5 W’s and an *H*. Follow the same instructions for marking and recording your insights on the word “*love*.”

Engaging with the Greek¹

Two Greek words translated *know* or *known* appear a total of 29 times in the book of 1 John. The first, *ginosko* which occurs 23 times in the book of 1 John, is used in verses 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 18, 29 (second usage) of chapter two. *Oida*, which occurs 6 times in the book, is used in verses 11, 20, 21, and 29 (first usage) of chapter two. The two word meanings can be contrasted in the following way:

Ginosko: a knowledge grounded on personal experience

Oida: to see with the mind’s eye, signifies a clear and purely mental perception

Abide (*meno* in the Greek) means to remain, not to depart, to continue to be present.

World (*kosmos* in the Greek) can be defined as an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order or government. The definition also includes world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly; the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments, riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ.

¹Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) (G3306). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Day 4 (1 John 2:3-17)

Pray before you begin your study time!

Read through our passage for the week and mark the following words (and synonyms). These are words, which are key to this portion of 1 John, but will not be repeated throughout the entire book.

command(ment)/word and *world*.

List below what you learn about *commandments/word*.

What does this Scripture teach you about the *world*?

As you reflect on the Greek meaning of *world*, and what this Scripture tells you about the world, how would you explain and apply this command in your life?

As you read repeatedly through these verses, I'm sure you noticed three different groups of people being specifically addressed. List them below, along with the characteristics used to identify them.

Circle those characteristics which are also true of you.

Day 5

The Core Competency that we will reflect on this week is our belief regarding the **Authority of the Bible**. Our creed says, "I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action."

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 *"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

The four Assessment Statements listed below are ones that we can use to evaluate the authenticity or existence of this belief in our own personal lives. The first statement is a truth that is certainly revealed from our passage of study this week.

1. I believe the Bible is absolutely true in matters of faith and morals.
2. I believe the words of the Bible are words from God.
3. I believe the Bible has decisive authority over what I say and do.
4. I believe the Bible is relevant to address the needs of contemporary culture.

Both in the first and second chapter of 1 John, we saw that a difference between what we say or claim and how we live is not acceptable in the life of one who has eternal life. It is clear that if the words we say or the beliefs we claim are not evidenced by the way we live as a regular pattern and habit of life, we are liars who do not live by the truth. We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

How does the truth that God has revealed to you this week, through His Word, apply to your everyday, 24/7 life?

Share evidence from your actions that indicates the basis of your faith is grounded in His Word.

Share a specific area of life which reveals that your principals, ethics or morals are based on His Word.

Share a specific area of your life where the words you have spoken or the decision you have made was based on God's Word.

What area(s) of your life are vulnerable to the influence of the world (everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does)?

What steps will you take to make them less vulnerable?

What is a specific area of your life where you trust in the supremacy and relevancy of God's Word even when that is not culturally supported or acceptable?

As you have spent time studying and meditating on God's Word this week, how has He spoken to you personally (teaching, rebuking, correcting or training in righteousness so that you are thoroughly equipped for every good work)?