

CORE COMPETENCIES

Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- **Eternity**

"I believe all people who place their trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in heaven."

- 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

Wow—it's hard to believe that we've come to the end of another great book study! 1 John has been a wonderful opportunity to grow in our faith and understand our true identity in Christ, hasn't it? I pray your faith has been strengthened and your life has been deeply encouraged during this time that you've devoted to studying God's Word. Remember God's promise is that His Word will never return void—because it is alive and full of power and it is always fruitful to give ourselves to it. And once more, a huge, huge thank you to Sandy Gottry, our faithful and gifted author of the Engage. She's taking a well-deserved break from writing, but what a gift she's been to our family here at Grace. If you get a chance, feel free to let her know of your appreciation for her hard work.

And so now, one more passage in 1 John, and then on to the next series...

On the Journey Together,
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 website 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 5:1-12: We observed that 1 John is a book of repetition concerning love, obedience, our relationship to the world and God's complete provision of all that we need for eternal life. We saw the clarity of what and how God testifies concerning His Son and the gift of eternal life. We also saw a connection between our believing and the faith that is necessary to walk in victory. We were presented with the foundation for assurance of eternal life.

Memory Verse for this week

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

1 John 5:13

Day 1 (1 John 5: 13-21)

As we begin our final week of study in 1 John, take time once again to thank God for His Word, specifically for the book of 1 John that was written to all believers in Jesus Christ so that we could know we have eternal life. Ask Him to reveal Himself further to you this week as you spend time reading and studying His Word.

Read through the entire fifth chapter taking special note of the last nine verses. Record what you see as the main topics John is writing about at the end of this letter.

Read through these nine verses a few more times, marking the following key words, including any corresponding pronouns. *God, Jesus, know, sin*

Engaging the Greek

The Greek word translated *know* in verses 13-20 (first use) is *oida* and indicates a knowledge that is seen with the mind's eye. It signifies a clear and purely mental perception.

The second time the word *know* appears in verse 20. It is the Greek word *ginosko* and indicates a knowledge that is grounded on personal experience.

Add to your lists on the Godhead those truths that are revealed from these verses.

Add to your list on *know* what these verses reveal that we can know and how we can know it.

Also, add to your list on sin any truths that you observe which answers a who, what, when, where, why or how question.

This passage of scripture contains some difficult verses with varying opinions and interpretations. As we spend our time in His Word this week, we will focus on the plain things, the things that are obvious and clear. And then we will trust that as we walk in obedience to that truth, God will, in His timing reveal to us those things that are less clear.

Close your time today, thanking your Heavenly Father that He alone is the true God, and that He hears us when we pray and answers those requests that are according to His will. Tell Him it is your desire to understand His Word and to walk in obedience to the truth He reveals to you this week.

Day 2 (1 John 5: 13-21; James 4:2-3; John 14:14; John 16:24; John 15:7; 1 John 3:22)

Read or recite your memory verse. Begin your study time by asking God to once again open your eyes, your mind and your heart to see truth and to abide in that truth!

Read through our core passage. Note where the subject of prayer begins and ends.

What conditions are presented as necessary in order for you to have your prayers answered?

Let's look at a few other passages of scripture that teach us about prayer. Read James 4:2-3. What two possible reasons are given here for not receiving things from God?

Look up the following verses. Next to each reference, note any conditions for asking and for receiving.

John 14:14 -

John 16:24 -

John 15:7 -

1 John 3:22 -

Do you believe that any of the conditions presented in these verses can stand alone and be independent of the others? Is it enough to simply tack on "in Jesus' name" at the end of any prayer? Explain your answer.

According to the Greek in 1 John 5:13, to believe in His *name* (or to ask in His *name*, John 14:14) implies everything which the name covers—the rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command and the cause. Spend some time meditating on what it, in fact, requires of you to believe or to pray in the name of the Son of God.

Day 3 (John 9:31; Proverbs 28:9,13; 1 Peter 3:7, 12; Psalm 66:18; 1 John 3:21-22; Hebrews 11:6)

Read or recite your memory verse and begin your time in His Word once again by coming before Him in humble dependence for understanding, application and the desire and power to walk in obedience to what He reveals to you.

Today we will continue to look at some cross-references regarding the relationship of sin to the believer's prayer life.

Look up the following verses and note their context. Record what you learn:

John 9:31 -

Proverbs 28:9, 13 -

1 Peter 3:7 -

1 Peter 3:12 -

Psalm 66:18 -

1 John 3:21-22 -

Hebrews 11:6 -

Have you, as a believer, ever been in any of the states described by these verses? Can you put into words the condition of your heart, your soul and your spirit during those times?

When you are in that place, is this God's desire or will for you? Are you there by His choice or your own?

Go back and read 1 John 1:5-2:2. What "light" does this shed on this topic?

Although forgiveness and restoration can only come to us as we personally confess our sin, what does 1 John 5:16 teach we should do for a brother who is sinning?

How would this reflect loving one another?

What do you know from scripture as to God's will for all believers, including those who occasionally sin?

If you know that this is God's will for your brother, and you ask for it, will He answer? What does 1 John 5:16 tell you?

Does verse 16 prohibit you from praying for a brother? Does it clearly state that we should be able to discern between a sin leading to death and a sin not leading to death?

If you are not sure what sin leads to death and what sin does not lead to death, what do you think would be the prudent thing to do for a brother who is involved in sin?

Allow God to bring to your heart or mind, a brother or sister who may need your prayers today. Spend time praying for that one.

Day 4 (1 John 5: 13-21)

Read or recite your memory verse. As you begin today, acknowledge God is true, He is life, and He has provided the way for you to have that eternal life –His Son, Jesus Christ. Thank Him for His protection in this world that is under the power of the evil one. Ask Him to continue to fill your heart with love for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Read once more through 1 John 5:13-21. With all that John has said, he closes his letter with three important statements beginning with "we know" and one final command/warning.

Engaging the Greek

Keeps (v. 18) - to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard, to keep, one in the state in which he is.

Touch [NIV: *harm*] (v. 18) - to fasten one's self to, adhere to, cling to, assail anyone. Refers to such handling of an object as to exert a modifying influence upon it or upon oneself.

Strong, 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.) (G5083). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Zodhiates, S. (2000, c1992, c1993). *The complete word study dictionary : New Testament* (electronic ed.) (G680). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

What assurance and the reason behind the assurance do you see in verse 18?

What assurance do you see in v. 19? What is the contrast that is drawn?

Verse 20 lays out some amazing and profound assurances. Try to list them in an outline format.

Verse 21 contains a final command that we guard who from what?

The word for idol refers to whatever represents the form of an object. It is a false god, not the true God, a counterfeit. What do you know about the best way to protect yourself from or to recognize a counterfeit?

What steps are you personally committed to taking in order to be obedient to this command?

Day 5 (1 John)

The Core Competency we will reflect on this week is the belief in **Eternity**. Our creed says, "I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and establish his eternal kingdom."

Ephesians 14:1-4 *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."*

The four statements listed below are ones that you can use to assess your own personal Christian experience:

1. I believe it is important to share the Gospel with my neighbor because Christ has commanded me to do so.
2. I believe that people who deliberately reject Jesus Christ as Savior will not inherit eternal life.
3. I believe that every person is subject to the judgment of God.
4. I believe all people who place their trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in heaven.

Look carefully at the last assessment statement above. Now read one more time through the entire book of 1 John. Take special note of the following passages and how God weaves this undeniable truth throughout the book of 1 John. Spend a few moments in prayer with your Heavenly Father. Thank Him for the clarity and assurance He has given to us that we might know that we have eternal life!

1 John 1:1-3 -

1 John 2:22-25 -

1 John 3:23 -

1 John 4:2, 13-15 -

1 John 5:1, 5, 11-13 -