

1 John

Lesson 6

Chapter 5:1-12

Participant Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies
Leaderguidebiblestudies.com
David R. Steele

This lesson is a free download from Leader Guide Bible Studies and is not for resale.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®

Copyright © 1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™

Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Faith in the Son of God

Lesson 6, 1 John 5:1-12

Prayers

Introduction

John, the last living apostle and eyewitness of Jesus, focuses on teaching new believers about Jesus Christ and reassuring them of their faith. He writes to assure their faith is genuine, even amid false teachers (and perhaps even their own). Some of their teachers rejected the gospel's simple truth for a religion of "gnosis," meaning worship of knowledge and mystical revelation. John writes that real faith is demonstrated in the life of a believer by four behaviors:

1. We obey Jesus' commands not to sin but, at the same time, recognize that we have sinned and need to confess our sins and look to Jesus as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
2. We love God and love others; all the scriptures revolve around this greatest command.
3. We reject the craving for materialism and sensual lust.
4. We recognize and reject false teachings about Jesus Christ.

In his closing comments in chapter 5, John focuses on teaching new believers about Jesus Christ and reassuring them of their faith.

Read 1 John 5:1-5

^{1Jn 5:1} Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves his child as well. ^{1Jn 5:2} This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ^{1Jn 5:3} This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ^{1Jn 5:4} for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ^{1Jn 5:5} Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Discuss

1. Verses 1. What truth about Jesus does John want new Christians to know?
2. How might false teachers, and many people today, contradict this simple truth about Jesus?
3. Verse 1 b. What is the result of believing in Christ?

4. Verse 2. In verse 1, John's emphasis was on everyone who loves God, loves his children. In verse 2, John changes the focus; everyone who loves his brother, God's children, loves God. Why do you think he expressed himself this way?

5. Verses 3 -5 can be challenging to understand because we often dwell on our failures and feel that obedience to God's commands is burdensome – and impossible! John is saying something genuinely profound here because the focus is not on us. Overcoming the world is a common theme found in John's writings. Refer to the following verses and discuss the only way believers overcome the world.
 - a. John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
 - b. 1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.
 - c. 1 John 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.
 - d. 1 John 5:5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God

Read 1 John 5:6-12

^{1Jn 5:6} This is the one who came by water and blood —Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ^{1Jn 5:7} For there are three that testify: ^{1Jn 5:8} the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ^{1Jn 5:9} We accept man’s testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ^{1Jn 5:10} Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ^{1Jn 5:11} And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ^{1Jn 5:12} He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

6. In verse 8, John states that three testify for Jesus Christ; the Spirit, water (of baptism), and the blood (of Christ). Why was it necessary to his readers that John state at least three testimonies?

7. John gives five other testimonies that Jesus is the Christ, Son of Man and Son of God. See John 5:31- 47 and list the other testimonies:

John 5:33-35

John 5:36

John 5:37

John 5:39

John 5:46

8. Verse 9. How does John weigh the importance of his testimony?

9. How does John's reference to the "water" testify that Jesus is the Christ? See John 1:32-34 and Luke 3:21-22.
 - a. John 1:32-34. Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. ³³And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

 - b. Luke 3:21-22. When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²²and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

10. How does the "blood" testify that Jesus is the Christ? See John 1:29, Luke 23:44-45, Matthew 27:50-54.
 - a. John 1:29. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

 - b. Luke 23:44-45. It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining.

 - c. Matthew 27:50-54. And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵²and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who

had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

11. The testimony of the water and the blood in John 5:7 also reminds us to reflect on the benefits of our baptism. Discuss what the water of baptism means to you in the following scriptures:

- a. John 3:3-8 Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

- b. **1 Peter 3:21**, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- c. Colossians 2:11-13: Your whole self—ruled by the flesh—was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

- d. ^{Eph 4:22} You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ^{Eph 4:23} to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ^{Eph 4:24} and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

12. In John 14:25-27, the NIV refers to the Holy Spirit as our Advocate. Other translations of the same verse refer to the Holy Spirit as our Helper (ESV), Comforter (King James), Counselor (Christian Standard Bible), or Paraclete (Douay-Rheims Bible). Refer to the following verses and summarize how the Holy Spirit guides your life.
- a. **John 14:25-27** “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
 - b. John 16:13: But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
 - c. Romans 8:26: In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 12:7: The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.
 - e. Galatians 5:22-23: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
 - f. 2 Thessalonians 2:13: We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Closing Prayer, from Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9–11

Dear Heavenly Father,

We give you thanks for you are good, and Your love endures forever. Your pleasure is not in our strength but in those who put their hope in Your unfailing love.

Thank you, Lord God, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. We ask for your guidance and wisdom through your Holy Spirit as we go through this week. Amen.