



## What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Vertical Edge, Tuesday, February 18 • Tonight's theme is "BIG"!** **Come & check it out!** Have you ever said anything that is really awkward that causes everyone to look at you? Yikes! Tonight Pastor Dan is jumping into the Big Word series: "Justification" Romans 3:22-24 Make sure to bring a friend and some change because checkers will be open! 7-9pm in West Court



## february 15/16 lesson

**Series:** 1 John

**Lesson:** Journey through 1 John ch. 5

**Scripture:** 1 John 4 & various

## A STUDY OF FIRST JOHN

### Chew Time

- Read **Luke 13:10-30**



**A.** Read **1 John 5:1-5**

1. *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.*

Last week we talked about John's great emphasis on love, and how the way that we treat others is an outflow of our faith. But we are **born of God** when we believe that Jesus is God and in His saving work in our lives.

Check out the following passage from the Gospel of John:

## John 1:1-13 (NLT)

### Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He \_\_\_\_\_ in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup> God \_\_\_\_\_ everything \_\_\_\_\_ him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

<sup>4</sup> The Word gave \_\_\_\_\_ to everything that was created,[a]  
and his life brought light to everyone.

<sup>5</sup> The \_\_\_\_\_ shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

<sup>6</sup> God sent a man, John the Baptist, <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup> John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup> The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup> But

to \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ him and \_\_\_\_\_ him, he gave the right to become \_\_\_\_\_ of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.



**Orthopraxy** means “correct \_\_\_\_\_” or “correct \_\_\_\_\_” and refers, in Christianity, to how a believer acts or performs, rather than how they believe.

**Orthopraxy** is sometimes contrasted with **orthodoxy**, which is “correct \_\_\_\_\_” or “correct \_\_\_\_\_.” Think of it this way: **orthopraxy** is how a believer acts; **orthodoxy** is what a person believes.

2. We also understand that John was not talking about a mere intellectual (\_\_\_\_\_) assent to Jesus being Messiah, as even the demons do, as described in James 2:19. Instead, he means a trust in and reliance (\_\_\_\_\_) on Jesus as Messiah.

† **James 2:19 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup> You say you have \_\_\_\_\_, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the \_\_\_\_\_ believe this, and they \_\_\_\_\_ in terror.

- B. **1 John 5:3 (NLT)** Loving God means keeping his \_\_\_\_\_, and his commandments are not burdensome.

Does the word “**commandments**” scare you? Does it make you think about a bunch of rules? Do you think Christianity is simply about following rules? Read the following verses and discuss:



**Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup> “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. <sup>5</sup> And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

- This is known as the **Shema**, taken from the first word “\_\_\_\_\_” in Hebrew. Modern Jews consider the recital of the Shema both evening and morning to be one of their most sacred duties.

**Matthew 22:36-40 (NLT)** <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “You must \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your \_\_\_\_\_ with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)** <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are \_\_\_\_\_ and carry heavy \_\_\_\_\_, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my \_\_\_\_\_ upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

- Come to me is an invitation to trust Jesus personally, not merely to believe historical facts about him. All who are weary and carry heavy burdens refers in the immediate context to those oppressed by the burden of religious rules imposed on people by the Jewish religious teachers. But the wider application is that Jesus provides “**rest for your souls**” (v. 29)—that is, eternal rest for all who seek forgiveness of their sins and freedom from trying to earn salvation by good works.
- “**My yoke**”. The wooden frame joining two animals (usually oxen) for pulling heavy loads and was a common \_\_\_\_\_ in Judaism for the law.

**John 16:13a (NLT)** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all \_\_\_\_\_.

**Acts 1:8 (NLT)** <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.”

C. Read **1 John 5:4-5 (NLT)**

<sup>4</sup> For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. <sup>5</sup> And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

- John begins with a \_\_\_\_\_ that is so simple, yet so powerful – if we are **born of God**, we will \_\_\_\_\_ the world. The idea that anything born of God could be defeated by this world was strange to John and it should be strange to us.

## John 15:1-4 (NLT) Jesus, the True Vine

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce \_\_\_\_\_, and he \_\_\_\_\_ the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.



<sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in me, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

## D. Read 1 John 5:20-21 (NLT)

<sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life.



<sup>21</sup> Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

- In the conclusion of this letter, John returned to his major theme: fellowship with Jesus Christ. We must **know Him**, and the word John uses for **know** (\_\_\_\_\_) speaks of knowledge by *experience*. That is how Jesus wants us to know Him.
- The work of Jesus in us gives us **an understanding**, and the ability to **know Him**, and to be **in Him** – the abiding life of fellowship.
- Significantly, this **understanding** must be \_\_\_\_\_. We cannot attain it on our own. If God did not reveal Himself to us, we would never find Him. We know Him, and can know Him, because He has revealed Himself to us.
- **Keep away from anything...**: This may seem like a strange way to end John's letter, but it fits in with the theme of a real, living relationship with God. The enemy to fellowship with God is \_\_\_\_\_: embracing false gods, or a false idea of the true God. John rightly closes with this warning.