

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals

“Good News for the Doubters”

1 John 3:11-24

June 14-15, 2014

For Starters

1. What stood out from this weekend’s message?
2. Have there been any doubts in your life that you have overcome?

Digging In

1. What does John mean in 1 John 3:20 when he speaks of our “hearts condemning us?”
How does this happen?
2. What does John mean when he writes in 1 John 3:20 that God is “greater than our hearts and knows everything”? How are these truths encouraging for a Christian?
3. What does John mean when he says that we will receive “anything we ask” from God?
How are we to understand this in light of the rest of 1 John 3:21-22?
4. What are the two commands that God asks us to keep in 1 John 3:23? Why do you believe that these two commandments rise above the rest?
5. How does the Holy Spirit assure us that we “belong to the truth and put our hearts at rest” in the presence of God?

Bringing it Home

1. Do you struggle with your heart/conscience condemning you? Do you believe you should be a “better Christian” than you are? Do you know others who struggle with this or other doubts about their spiritual lives?
2. How does God, knowing everything about you, allow you to be vulnerable and honest, not withdrawn and dishonest?
3. How can you approach God with confidence in prayer? How can you grow a personal prayer life that is marked by boldness with God?
4. How does believing in Jesus (1 John 3:23) and seeing what he has done for us (1 John 3:16) put our “hearts at rest” in God’s presence? Why is this so vital to our spiritual growth?

Digging Deeper

Read and meditate on the Gospel truths of Romans 8:1 and Romans 8:31-39. How do these verses remove our doubts about how God feels about us through Christ?