

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, and individuals

“Dear Children, Keep Yourself from Idols”

1 John 5

June 28-29, 2014

For Starters

We’ve just concluded the series “True” where we have walked through 1 John identifying the marks of a true follower of Christ. As you think of the past messages in this series, what have been some of the most impactful moments? What verses in 1 John stand out to you the most? Why?

Digging In

1 John 5:3 says that His commands are not burdensome. Spend time discussing the “burdens” we often associate being a follower of Christ. How should the truth of verse 3 impact these “burdens”?

Faith, obedience and love are three major themes that cycle through 1 John. As he sums these up in 5:1-5, where can you see these themes in the first four chapters? If in a group, assign out chapters and comb through the text to see these three themes.

1 John 5:18, 19, and 20 are a threefold “We know” as John reaches the climax of his letter. What coloration does this threefold “We know” ...have with faith, obedience, and love?

Bringing it Home

What do faith, obedience and love look like when they are truly weaved together in how we live?

John stresses over and over the importance of true doctrine. What are subtle ways that we slip in our faith?

John ends his letter by reminding the believer of their personal responsibility to “keep” themselves from idols. What are you putting in front of God? What is in danger of being put in front of God in your life? How can you keep yourself from these idols?

Digging Deeper

Based on how you have answered the questions, pray for how faith, obedience, and love can continue to change your life.

Pray that the knowledge and understanding we have continue to grow as we grow in Him.

If you are in a group, spend time confessing to each other. Then in humility, pray for each other. Pray for those whom you know who are far from Christ.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org.