



Week 8 Message-Based Curriculum

Text: 1 John 5:1-12

Opening

- Begin with a **brief welcome and prayer** to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** In a world that constantly tells us to “build a better life,” 1 John reminds us that real life isn’t something we *build*—it’s something we’re *born into* by faith in the Son of God.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- When you think of someone who looks like they’re “killing it” at life (job, family, trips, social media, etc.), what comes to mind?
- If everything in your life went perfectly for the next 5 years, what would your life look like?
 - Be honest: how much of that vision is about circumstances (money, success, relationships) and how much is about life with Jesus?
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your sense of joy in Jesus right now?

DISCOVER

Read 1 John 5:1-12 together.

- As you hear these verses read, what words or phrases stand out to you?
- Is there anything here that confuses you or pushes back against how you would normally think about “life” or “faith”?
- How would you explain in your own words what it means to be “born of God”?
- John also says that if we love the Father, we love His children. How does that challenge a “me and Jesus, but not His people” version of Christianity?
- Be honest: when you hear “God’s commands are not burdensome,” do you feel like that’s true in your life? Why or why not?
- In this season, how would you describe the difference between happiness because life lined up and joy because you trust in Jesus even when it doesn’t?
- Jason said you can have a full calendar, house, and bank account and still not have life; and you can have scars, questions, and an uncertain future and yet be *deeply alive* because you have the Son. Which side of that contrast do you feel closer to right now? Why?

RESPOND

You can discuss these as a group, or invite people to reflect silently and then share as they're comfortable.

- **Heart Check:**
 - Where do you most clearly see that you have been “chasing life the world’s way”?
 - Where do you sincerely see the evidence of being “born of God” and living by faith in the Son?
- **Invitation to Trust:**
 - If you don’t think you actually have the Son (you’ve been around church but never really trusted Jesus), what is holding you back?
 - If you do belong to Jesus, what specific area is He inviting you to surrender so you can live like His commands are life, not chains?
- **One Step This Week:**
 - What is **one concrete step** you can take this week to move from chasing the world’s version of life to actively receiving life in the Son?
 - (Examples: a daily time in 1 John 5, a hard but obedient conversation, a step of generosity, confessing a hidden sin, re-engaging with God’s family, etc.)

Invite group members to share their “one step” so you can follow up next week.

GROUP PRAYER

This week, we are going to tie our prayer requests to what we’ve been talking about:

Pray for:

- **Satisfaction in Christ:** Thank God for giving us the greatest gift we could ever ask for in Jesus, and ask Him to satisfy the parts of our souls that are discontent.
- **Surrender:** Ask God to identify the areas of your life where you’ve tried to find wholeness in material things or circumstances. Ask Him to help you let go of the sense of security you find in that thing.
- **Joy:** Ask the Holy Spirit to produce deep joy in your group. Not the kind that’s only present when life is going well, but because *“His life is ours”* in Jesus.

CLOSING

Next week’s passage: 1 John 5:13-21 (the final week of this study).