

1 JOHN - HOUSE GROUP STUDY 1

This term in our home groups we are going to be following up on our morning services by looking at 1 John. Hopefully these studies won't be repeating the sermons, but they will be a chance to talk over what we have learnt, and to apply what we are learning.

The purpose of this first session is to get a beginning of an overview to the letter - at very least to get a feel for John's purpose in writing the letter, and to pick up on some of the themes.

There are 3 sections to the study.

1. FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Encourage your group to read through the letter for themselves before they come on Thursday. We read it as a whole last Thursday at the prayer meeting. If you feel it would be appropriate feel free to do that again at the start of the study.

- What is your first impression of the letter? (Challenging? Encouraging? Harsh? Warm? etc) I realise many people will know 1 John very well - perhaps they can share how God has used this letter in their lives.
- John's style is quite repetitive as he comes back to themes again and again. What are some of the themes/words/phrases that you have noticed as you read through the letter.
- Do you have any questions about the letter having read it through as we begin our studies?

Obviously there are no wrong/right answers to these questions!

2. JOHN'S PURPOSE

Throughout 1 John John uses the phrase "I am writing to you....." a number of times, and these verses give us some clues about why he is writing. Read these verses aloud in the group.

1:4

2:1

2:12-14

2:26

5:13

What do these verses tell us about why John is writing?

What do they tell us about the original readers of the letter?

Is John deliberately writing an encouraging or a rebuking letter?

3. INTRODUCTION AND CONCLUSION

Read 1:1-4

Who is John writing about in 1:1-4? What authority does he have? What is his purpose in writing about him?

How does this introduction fit with some of the purposes we have just seen throughout the rest of the letter (back in section 2 when we looked up the other verses)

Read 5:20

What do "we know"? Summarise this verse in your own words. How does this link with how John began the letter?