

John 1

SPIRIT EMPOWERED Faith

Day 1

L-3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

I. Love the Lord Your God... How might this text lead me to better love God? “We love because He first loved us.” (1 Jn 4:19) We can only love with all our “heart, soul, mind, and strength” the REAL God.

A. As you read and reflect on the chapter, how might you describe the “REAL” God as He is seen as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

1. In verse _____ He is seen as _____

2. In verse _____ He is seen as _____

3. In verse _____ the love of Jesus is seen toward _____ as He

4. In verse _____ the love of Jesus is seen toward _____ as He

5. How might the above insights challenge some of your misconceptions of God? “Sadly, I sometimes mistakenly see God as _____.”

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Day 2

W-1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.

B. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8): The REAL God described above wants to relate to you as you described Him above; pause to let Him love you.

1. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who _____, my heart is moved with _____

2. Father, as you express yourself to me as the God who _____, my heart is moved with _____

C. Jesus is available to love you like we read of His love in this chapter. Pause to express your heart to Him as you see Him in this chapter.

1. Describe how Jesus has loved you in some of the same ways that you read of His love in this chapter: “I have experienced the love of Jesus as He has _____

2. Jesus, as you love me like you loved those in this chapter, my heart is touched with _____

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Day 3

P-5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the Church.

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Day 4

M-1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community.

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Day 5

L-4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as "His Beloved."

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.' This is the first and most important command... And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' ... All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands." (Matthew 22:37-40)

II. Love Your Neighbor... How might this text lead me to better love others, both those who follow Jesus and those who don't know Him? "Love one another even as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Since we have freely received of His love, we are to freely give this same love to others; consider again how you see love portrayed in this chapter.

A. Who among your family or friends might you better love?

1. I could better love _____ especially by _____

B. Notice again how Jesus expressed love by accepting, forgiving or sacrificing? How might Jesus have taken initiative, expressed compassion or offered support? How did Jesus share truth and eternal hope?

1. Who in the traffic patterns of your life might benefit from receiving the blessing of Christ's love through you? (*who*) _____ could benefit from my sharing the love of Jesus by _____

2. Who in your life could benefit from sharing part of your life story of encountering truth and eternal hope? (*who*) _____ could benefit from sharing more about _____

3. Pause now to pray for this person and then yourself as you impart both your life and the gospel.

III. "As you love yourself" your significance, value and worth have been established by your creator through the gift of His Son. How might this text affirm your identity as His "beloved"?

"This is how God showed his love to us: He sent His only Son into the world to give us life through Him." (1 John 4:9)

Celebrate how you have received His love and grace, His forgiveness and new life, His calling and kingdom purpose.

A. Re-read the text as His truth being shared just for you.

1. I'm grateful that I have experienced the blessing of verse _____ as I _____

B. Since He is the same yesterday, today, and forever meditate on you being "in" the story of this chapter; allow Him to love you as you read of His love in the chapter.

1. My heart is touched with gratitude that Jesus _____

John 1

Engage Fellowship

“And this Living Expression is the Light that bursts through gloom—the Light that darkness could not diminish!” (John 1:5).

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Yielding to the Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts and witness of the fruit of the Spirit.

Notice that the Light shines in the present tense—not just in the past but now! Certainly it was Christ the Word who became flesh and dwelt among men as Light; but He still today shines as Light in the darkness. We have both a *historical* Jesus who was with God and became man but this same Jesus is *contemporary* as Light shining in darkness.

How confusing it must have been for the disciples to grasp the significance of Christ's words, “you are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). But as the resurrection and ascension unfolded, the coming of the Holy Spirit ushered in the fulfillment of Christ's words. No doubt God's Light is made known through the Son and the Word, but there's more (John 8:12, Psalm 119:105). His light is to be made manifest through His people! You and I as followers of Jesus have been made partakers of divine light and this light exposes darkness. Sometimes the darkness exposed is in the culture or in those who walk in darkness, and sometimes the darkness is in me!

Sometimes it's the quiet conviction of His Spirit that exposes in me the darkness of sin and the flesh. At other times it is the Light of Christ in fellow saints that reveals in me the darkness of inconsistencies in my walk with Jesus.

- Prevailing patience in a friend reveals my irritable impatience.
- Courageous witness in a fellow disciple exposes the timidity of my faith.
- A family member's compassionate engagement with those in need stands in sharp contrast to my cold indifference.

His light made known through others has revealed in me, measures of darkness that need the transforming work of His Spirit.

As a follower who has been exhorted by Jesus to “walk in the light” (John 12:35), it seems important to embrace the light of true fellowship. Rather than avoid the illuminating power of light, let's invite it!

Pause to pray with a partner or small group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you Jesus in the lives of fellow disciples that you might find freedom from sin and self to grow in your Christ-likeness.

“Holy Spirit, challenge me through the Light of Jesus in other disciples that You might perfect in me more and more of His likeness. I'm especially touched by how You make Jesus known through _____ as he/she expresses _____.”

John 1

Encounter Jesus

***“He will be the One
I have sent to baptize
with the Holy Spirit.”
(John 1:33)***

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***Yielding to the Spirit’s
fullness as life in the Spirit
brings supernatural intimacy
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of the fruit of the Spirit.***

John’s wilderness cry was to a baptism of repentance but One greater than he would send forth a different baptism. Ushered in at Pentecost the promise of the Holy Spirit is now available. Followers of Jesus yielding to this baptism will experience rivers of living water as the fruit of the Holy Spirit is made known (John 7:28, Galatians 5:22).

Reflect quietly on the many facets of the Holy Spirit’s fruit: “but the fruit of the Spirit is...”

Pause to yield in a fresh way to the fullness of His Spirit. Listen as the Spirit whispers about a needed deepened work that you might more clearly manifest His fruit. Might you need a fresh work of:

- His love, joy or peace?
- His patience, kindness or goodness?
- His faithfulness, gentleness or self-control?

Listen to His invitation and yield to its promise: “Come unto me and out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”

Ask for the Spirit to empower this deepened work in and through you. Claim the promise of 1 John 5:14-15 “If you ask anything according to His will (confident that you’re expressing the Spirit’s fruit is His will)... He will HEAR... and you will HAVE”!

*“Lord Jesus I need a deepened work of _____
(love, joy, peace, patience, etc?) in order that I might more clearly reveal
the Spirit’s fruit in my life. Fill and empower me Holy Spirit as I give
witness of You.”*

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Experience Scripture

*“Jesus said...
“follow Me.” (John 1:43)*

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*Yielding to the Spirit’s
fullness as life in the Spirit
brings supernatural intimacy
with the Lord, manifestation
of divine gifts and witness
of the fruit of the Spirit.*

Two simple but profound words can guide my daily walk as Light in a dark world: “Follow me”. Whatever may come my way today, Jesus has gone before me, He has led and I’m to follow!

“WWJD” is my key to following.

- What would Jesus DO becomes a guiding principle when uncertainty abounds.
- What would Jesus CHOOSE guides me away from a broad road of destruction onto the narrow road of life abundant.
- What would Jesus SAY guides the words of my mouth away from unwholesome words and into words that edify.
- What would Jesus THINK guides my thoughts away from this world into His Word, which renews my mind.
- Clarity and adequacy for daily living is found in the powerful simplicity of two words from the Word: “Follow Me.”

Pause to celebrate with a partner or small group:

“Recently, I sensed an important “following” of Jesus as I faced

and found strength to _____

_____.”

My Journal

Our prayer as you read, reflect and embrace John's words is simple. With Paul the Apostle we pray, "May the eyes of your heart be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power towards us who believe." Ephesians 1:18-19 May the rich treasure of the Father's passionate love capture overflow your life with His greater grace!

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Yielding to the Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts and witness of the fruit of the Spirit.