



Small Group Guide: Born of God- 1 John 5:1-13

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to tune your hearts toward Him and open your minds to His Word as you discuss together.

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you instantly recognized someone you love in a crowded place. What drew you to them? How does this relate to recognizing we belong to God?

Sermon Recap

This week's message explored what it means to be "born of God" and the imprinted DNA of believers. John wrote to give believers confidence and hope in their relationship with God, not to induce fear or doubt. When we live in freedom rather than fear, we live differently.

****Key Imprints of Being Born of God:****

1. The desire and ability to love God
2. Joy in obedience to His commands
3. Faith to overcome the world
4. The right to present our requests to Him

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. ****Read 1 John 5:1-5.**** What does John mean when he says we've been "born of God"? What are the birthmarks or imprinted DNA of believers mentioned throughout this letter?

2. In verse 2, John says we know we love God's children when we love God and obey His commands. Why does John connect loving God with loving His commands? How are these inseparable?

3. ****Read verse 3 again.**** John says God's commands are "not burdensome." Do you find this to be true in your experience? Why or why not?

****Personal Reflection****

4. The sermon asked: "Do you think about the Lord in the course of your day? Are you overwhelmed by His goodness? Do you express your love for Him in worship and trust?" How would you honestly answer these questions right now?

5. The pastor mentioned that our greatest problem in seeing God's great love is "believing the delusion that we deserve to be loved by God." How does seeing yourself as the "tick and flea infested mutt" rather than the "golden retriever puppy" change your understanding of God's love?

6. Share about a time when your affections for God felt dry or distant. What contributed to that season? What helped (or could have helped) stir your affections back toward Him?

****Going Deeper****

7. The sermon offered three ways to stir our affections for God:

- Meditate on God's love for you
- Be honest and pray for God to stir your affections
- Tune your heart consistently through worship and prayer

Which of these do you need most right now? What would it look like to practice this in the coming week?

8. ****Read Hebrews 11:32-40.**** How does faith in a "better country" help us overcome the attractions of this world? What specific things in this world compete most for your affections?

9. The false teachers denied that Jesus was fully God at His death. Why is it essential to believe that the Jesus who died on the cross was "nothing less than God himself"? How does this impact our salvation?

10. ****Read verses 13-15.**** John wants us to have confidence in our relationship with God. What robs you of confidence in your standing before God? How can these verses help?

Key Takeaways

- ****We cannot love God without knowing God, but we cannot know God and not love God.**** Our affections may wane, but the capacity to love Him is imprinted in us at spiritual birth.

- ****God's commands become joyful when we understand they flow from His love for us.**** When we see His commands as good for us, they are no longer burdensome.

- ****Faith in Christ alone gives us the power to overcome the world.**** The things of earth grow dim when we look fully at Jesus.

- **We have the right and privilege to bring all our requests to God.** We can approach the throne of grace with confidence, not fear.

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. ****Meditate on God's Love:**** Each morning, read one passage about God's love (Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 John 4:9-10) and journal about what it means that He loved you when you were unlovable.
2. ****Honest Prayer:**** Pray the prayer from Psalm 119:32 daily: "I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart." Be honest with God about where your affections are and ask Him to tune your heart.
3. ****Examine Your Commands:**** Pick one command of God that feels burdensome to you. Spend time this week asking God to show you how this command is actually for your good and flows from His love.
4. ****Practice Confidence:**** Each time you pray this week, begin by thanking God that you can approach Him with confidence because of Jesus, not because of your performance.