



## **Small Group Guide: Truths Every Child of God Should Know**

**\*\*Based on 1 John 5:16-21\*\***

### **Opening Prayer & Icebreaker**

**\*\*Icebreaker Question:\*\*** Share about someone who had a significant spiritual impact on your life (like Mrs. Calhoun had on the speaker). What made their influence so meaningful?

### **Key Takeaways from the Sermon**

1. **\*\*We can know that God answers prayer\*\*** (verses 14-17)
2. **\*\*We can know victory over sin\*\*** (verse 18)
3. **\*\*We can know we belong to God and not Satan\*\*** (verse 19)
4. **\*\*We can know what is true\*\*** (verses 20-21)

### **Discussion Questions**

**\*\*Q1:\*\*** The sermon emphasized praying "according to His will" (v. 14). How do we discern God's will when we pray? What helps you align your prayers with God's purposes?

**\*\*Q2:\*\*** When you see a brother or sister caught in ongoing sin, what is your first response—gossip, judgment, or prayer? Why is intercession the biblical response?

**\*\*Q3:\*\*** Discuss the difficult passage about "sin that leads to death" (v. 16-17). Which interpretation makes most sense to you? How does this affect how we pray for others?

**\*\*Q4:\*\*** The sermon stated, "John does not write to tell us we can be sinless, but that we will sin less." How does this truth encourage you in your spiritual journey?

**\*\*Q5:\*\*** How does knowing that Jesus "protects" us (v. 18) give you confidence in your daily battle against temptation? What does it mean practically that "the evil one does not touch" believers?

**\*\*Q6:\*\*** Read Hebrews 12:5-13 (referenced in the sermon). How have you experienced God's loving discipline in your life? How did it draw you closer to Him?

**\*\*Q7:\*\*** What does it mean to you personally that "we are from God" while "the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (v. 19)? How should this shape how we live?

**\*\*Q8:\*\*** The sermon ended with a warning against idols. The speaker defined an idol as "anything that takes the rightful place that only belongs to Jesus." What are some modern-day idols that Christians struggle with? (Consider: career, relationships, social media, political identity, entertainment, comfort, etc.)

**\*\*Q9:\*\*** The speaker shared how sports went from being a good thing to a "God thing" to a bad thing in his life. Can you identify something in your own life that might be becoming an idol? How can you tell the difference between enjoying something and worshiping it?

## **Personal Reflection**

Take a few minutes of silence for individual reflection on these questions:

- Which of the four "we know" statements do I struggle most to believe?
- Is there a brother or sister in Christ I need to begin praying for?
- What idol do I need to "keep myself from" this week?
- How can I stay "really, really close to Jesus" this week?

## **Practical Applications**

Choose 1-2 applications to focus on this week:

### **### Application 1: Intercessory Prayer List**

Create a list of believers you know who are struggling with ongoing sin. Commit to praying for them daily this week instead of talking about them. Consider reaching out with encouragement.

### **### Application 2: Morning Routine Audit**

Evaluate your morning routine. What do you think about first? What captures your attention? Consider restructuring your morning to prioritize time with God (Bible reading, worship, prayer) before checking news, sports, or social media.

### **### Application 3: Idol Inventory**

Make a list of the top 5 things you spend your time, money, and mental energy on. Ask yourself honestly: "Has any of these taken the place that belongs only to Jesus?" Pray about what needs to change.

### **### Application 4: Assurance Check**

If you struggle with assurance of salvation, spend time this week studying the "we know" statements throughout 1 John. Write them down and memorize at least one.

### **### Application 5: Invest in Children**

Following the sermon's opening illustration, find one way this week to invest in the spiritual life of a child—volunteer in children's ministry, pray for a specific child, or share your faith story with a young person.