



John • 2 Timothy • 1, 2, & 3 John • Jude • Revelation

John gives a precise statement of his purpose in writing: "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." John, in his writing, wants his readers to "believe" in Jesus as God and Savior. In fact, John uses the term "believe" approximately 100 times to get his message across. The language of Jesus follows suit in John, as He says the phrase, "I am..." in numerous descriptions and occasions. Some examples include:

- I am He.
- I am the good shepherd.
- I am the light of the world.
- I am the true vine.
- I am the resurrection.

1. Share with the group your own description of Christ (He is _____). Maybe he has carried you through a difficult school year so He is your faithful Friend or maybe He has resurrected your dead marriage so He is your Resurrection. John wrote three letters to Christians about their love for one another. Since God is love, his people must be like him and love one another, but foremost they must believe that Jesus is the true Christ and that his death for all people was real. Our love for others must flow out of our love for Christ.

Speaking the Word activates faith. Doing the Word demonstrates faith." By being actively engaged during worship, learning from sermons and reading the New Testament in 30 days your faith is being initiated. Being involved in a community group or sharing the Truth with those around you has given you the opportunity to speak the Word and activate your faith with others. Now, it's time to do the Word and demonstrate your faith.

[Group Leaders: In the next week be thinking about a Community Outreach Project that will give the group the opportunity to activate their faith by serving in our area. Discuss the options for the project. Everyone must serve 1 hour this week]

In the book of Jude the Christians were using mercy and grace as a license for immorality. Jude gives historic examples of times when the compassion of God had given way to punishment in Jude 1:5-7, "Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe... In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire."

2. Have you ever allowed grace or leniency to justify disobedience in your life by hanging out with the wrong crowd or allowing negative influences into your life? Are you still connected with that person? [Group Leaders, challenge your community group members to weed out unhealthy relationships in their lives]

3. All of us fail on occasion. What are some techniques you've employed to stay faithful?

4. In what areas of your life have you been tempted to excuse your actions with the mercy and grace of God? It's hard to find the words to describe what we read in the book of Revelations. We read about a returning King, the end times and the promises of heaven. In

Revelation 3 God said, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!"

5. God said that He would rather you choose to be hot or cold rather than lukewarm in your faith. Discuss as a group when you have felt cold, hot or lukewarm in your relationship with Christ. The Book of Revelation is about the coming of Christ and the end times. In Matthew 25, the Parable of the Ten Virgins is a story about when the Kingdom of Heaven will return. Matthew writes, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." This is an encouragement because we know that Christ will return. It is also a warning that we must make the most of every moment and act out our faith intentionally.

6. How is the way you live your life reflective of the sense of urgency described in Revelation? How is it not?

Weekly Thought

Often when we're reading the Scriptures we can get very caught up focusing on what the Scriptures are telling us to do, or we're trying to find answers to our questions. During this week, we have taken the opportunity to focus on what the Scriptures are saying about God. In John Jesus is described as a reigning king with authority and power and in Revelation you will see that Jesus is the Beginning and the end of all things. Having read through the entire New Testament and getting a full look at the life and ministry of Jesus from Matthew to Revelation what are some of the most memorable concepts you're taking out of this experience? How will you continue to make reading God's Word a priority in your life?