

Jesus Never Said THAT: Keep All the Rules

May 24, 2020

Week 6 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [1 John 1:1-10](#)

REFLECT: The New Testament letter, 1 John, is written more like a poetic sermon than a letter. It circles around the same themes throughout the book- life, light, truth, love- and it urges readers to grow in faith, in obedience, and in love. In other words, John is calling readers to live their Christian lives fueled by their relationship with Jesus.

Read 1 John 1- What do you learn about Jesus in this chapter? What do you learn about fellowship?

PRACTICE: Use a journal and divide a page into fourths or use four pages. Use this every day this week to record your thoughts on each of the four themes (above) as you encounter them in 1 John.

PRAY: *Thank you, Jesus, for your Word. As I read this week, open my eyes to see its wonder. Open my mind to receive its truth. Open my heart to love you more deeply. Move me to live in You and for You. Amen.*

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: "[How to Read 1, 2, 3 John](#)" from the Bible Project on RightNow Media gives a good overview of this epistle. [Need a *free* RNM account? Register [here](#).]

FOR FAMILIES: Have elementary kids? Check out Phil Vischer's series on 1 John, "[What is a Christian?](#)" on RightNow Media.

STUDY WITH SOMEONE: Use this reading plan to study 1 John with someone this week! You can read together using the YouVersion Bible app, connect on the Marco Polo app, or simply text. Consider sharing something you learn with other friends on social media.

Day 2-

READ: [1 John 2:1-27](#)

PRACTICE: Record your discoveries from the four themes: light, life, truth, love.

REFLECT: In verses 1-6, what does the daily Christian life look like? How would you summarize the “new commandment” in verses 7-14? How do the warnings and cautions of verses 15-27 help guide daily living?

PRAY: *Praise you, Jesus! You turned God’s wrath away from me, onto yourself, so that I could be made righteous in your name. That isn’t always easy for me to understand, but I am so thankful! Today, I want to walk in your footsteps, and I know I can only do that through your free gifts of love and grace. Amen.*

TAKE IT FURTHER!

STUDY: What is propitiation? Understand more in this article from the Gospel Coalition, “[Salvation by Propitiation](#)” by Kevin DeYoung.

Day 3-

READ: [1 John 2:28-29](#) and [3:1-24](#)

PRACTICE: Note how John returns again and again to the four themes- light, life, truth, love. Record in your journal your observations on these themes.

REFLECT: What does it mean to be a child of God? How is life as a child described in these verses? How does Christ’s love set an example for us? How does it give us confidence?

PRAY: *Thank you, Jesus, for the Holy Spirit you have given to abide in me, that I might live as your child-loving you with my whole heart and mind, and loving others. Amen.*

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [Mark 12:28-34](#)

WATCH/ LISTEN: Missed Pastor Derek’s May 3rd sermon on loving God and loving others? Catch up [here!](#)

Day 4-

READ: [1 John 4:1-21](#)

PRACTICE: You know what to do! Grab your journal and mine those four themes: light, life, truth, love.

REFLECT: Growing in faith means growing in the truth of Jesus as taught in Scripture. Why is it sometimes difficult to stand firm in the truth? Verse 19 says, “we love because He first loved us.” Create a word picture or draw a diagram to describe the connection between His love, the Spirit in us and our love for one another in verses 7-21.

PRAY: *Jesus, thank you for making a way for me to abide in You, for our Spirit to abide in me. Help me to listen to your Word that speaks truth. Help me to recognize the voice of your Spirit as You call me to live a life of love for others. Help me to trust You, to not fear tomorrow, but to lean on you today. Amen.*

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: What is love? Paul paints a beautiful picture in [1 Corinthians 13](#).

Day 5-

READ: [1 John 5:1-21](#)

PRACTICE: Make your last observations about light, life, truth and love and record those in your journal. What have you learned about Jesus and the Father this week? What have you learned about yourself? What is one step you feel the Spirit leading you to take in deepening your devotion, standing in truth and/or living obediently in your relationship with Jesus?

PRAY: *Jesus, we know that you are the Son of God, that You have come. Give me understanding that I may know You who is true, for you are the true God and in You I find life, eternal life. Keep my eyes, my heart, my mind, from straying from You. I love You, Lord! May your love in me fuel my love for others. Amen.*

TAKE IT FURTHER!

MAKE THE CONNECTION: Read [Matthew 7:18-23](#). What have you learned this week from 1 John that will keep you from just looking like a Christian on the outside while living rotten on the inside?