

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## 1 John 2:28-3:10

Read as a group – 1 John 2:28-3:10

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

### **3 – Main Points of Sunday’s Sermon**

- **The Righteousness of God**
- **The Children of God**
- **The Children of the Devil**

#### **1) The Righteousness of God - 1 John 2:28-29**

- How often do you think about the return of Christ? Do you think it will be during your lifetime? Why or Why not?
- If Christians lived with a fervent belief in the imminent (at-any-moment) return of Jesus, how would their lives be different?
- What did John suggest would be the experience for those who are not abiding in Christ at the time of His return (2:28)?

#### **2) The Children of God - 1 John 3:1-6**

- What idea or truth specifically prompted John’s outburst of wonder and praise at the beginning of Chapter 3?
- Read Eph. 3:17-19 and discuss the following quote by David Allen.

- **David Allen says:** trying to measure God's love is like measuring the content of the ocean with a teacup or making a personal inspection of the known universe. It is like setting up a yardstick to see how tall God is or using a tape measure to determine the breadth of his reach. When I look at the Cross, I see there is a love that shrinks from no sacrifice, is evoked by no loveliness on my part, but comes from the depth of God's own infinite being. God is a God who loves because he must and who must because He is God.
- How does the knowledge of God's deep love motivate us to live a holy life?
  - **Warren Wiersbe:** An unbeliever who sins is a creature sinning against his Creator. A Christian who sins is a Child sinning against his Father. The unbeliever sins against law; the believer sins against love.
- What did John mean when he said, "The world does not know us" (3:1)?
  - Hebrews 11:13-16
  - 1 Peter 1:1
  - 1 Peter 2:11
- **Read 1 John 3:4-10** and give four reasons why true Christians cannot habitually practice sin.
- What is the difference between Justification, Sanctification, Glorification and Regeneration? How is each of these at work in your life? Use the following quotes to help you answer.
  - **A quote on Justification and Sanctification by Warren Wiersbe -**  
When a person receives Christ as his Savior, tremendous spiritual changes takes place in him. He is given a new standing before God, being accepted as righteous in God's sight. This new standing is called "justification." It never changes and is never lost.
  - The new Christian is also given a new position: He is set apart for God's own purposes to live for His glory. This new position is called "sanctification," and it has a way of changing from day to day. On some days we are much closer to Christ and obey him much more readily.
  - But perhaps the most dramatic change in a new believer is what we call "regeneration." He is "born again" into the family of God (Re- means "again" and generation means "birth.")
  - Justification means a new standing before God, sanctification means being set apart to God, and regeneration means a new nature - God's nature. (see 2 Peter 1:4)

- **Quote on Glorification by Douglas O'Donnell** – Not only are we Justified by faith in Christ (thus perfectly righteous before God), but soon we will be just (perfectly righteous like God). Why? – “Because we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). Does that mean that once we see Jesus, we will somehow be transformed from this mortal and immoral body into an immortal and moral one? Yes!! We will have glorified resurrected bodies, a clean character, and satisfied souls.
- What is Regeneration or being “Born Again”?
- **Read Eph. 2:1-10** and discuss who we were before the “New Birth” and who we now are after the “New Birth.”
  - *Leaders Cheat:*
    - *Eph. 2:1-3 was our life before the New Birth*
    - *Eph. 2:4-10 is our life after the New Birth*

### 3) The Children of the Devil - Read 1 John 3:7-10

- What did John mean when he spoke of “children of the devil” (3:10 see also John 8:44)? How does this fit in with the popular notion today that everyone is a “child of God”?
- What healthy habits (such as meditating on God’s Word, praying, or serving other people) do you particularly need to focus on increasing in your life in order to uproot habits of sin?

**Read 1 Peter 1:3 & 13-16** and discuss how this passage relates to this week’s passage.

- What does Peter say about our new nature and new conduct as children of God?