

# 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 5:13-20

Read as a group 1 John 5:13-20

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

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

- **We know God hears our prayers**
- **We know Jesus protects us from the evil one.**
- **We know that we have the truth about who Jesus is**

#### I. We know God hears our prayers. (V. 13-16)

- Take some time and put in your own words John’s teaching on prayer.
- Read and discuss the following quote.
  - **John Stott** – Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or bending His will to ours, but instead prayer is the prescribed way of subordinating our own will to His... Every prayer should be a variation on the theme ‘thy will be done.’
- How did Jesus show that He depended on prayer? Give examples.
- How can a believer know if he or she is praying “according to God’s will” (1 John 5:14)?
- What responsibility do we have for each other, according to verse 16?
- **Read Hebrews 4:14-16** and answer the following questions.
  - What additional light do these verses in Hebrews shed on prayer?

- Why can we come before God with confidence?
- **Read John 16:19-24**
- What does this passage teach us about prayer?
- Read the following quote by John MacArthur and discuss what it means to pray in Jesus' name.
  - **John MacArthur writes** - To pray in Jesus' name is to pray consistent with who He is, with the goal of bringing Him glory. It is to follow the pattern He modeled in prayer: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," and His example of humble submission to the Father's will when He prayed in Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing remove this cup from me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." The goal of prayer is not to gratify our selfish desires but to align our wills with God's purpose.

## II. We know Jesus protects us from the evil one. (V. 17-18)

- Do verses 18-19 promise that Christians will not be attacked by Satan or that we will be exempt from all persecution and testing? How do you know?
- How does God protect believers from sin?
- What do the following verses tell us about Christians?
  - 1 John 1:6
  - 1 John 3:6
  - 1 John 3:9
- How does 1 John 1:8-9 bring balance to the epistle of 1 John especially in light of the verses just read?
- Read the following verses and discuss the common themes.
  - 1 Peter 1:3-5
  - Jude 24-25
  - Philippians 1:6
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:23
  - Romans 8:31-39
- Why are these verses so encouraging?

- John said we can know that we have life in Christ. How does knowing this for certain strengthen your faith?
- In what way is there a tension in 1 John 5:18 with man's responsibility and God's sovereignty?
- **Read Philippians 2:12-13** and discuss how we are to live in light of the tension discussed above.

### **III. We know that we have the truth about who Jesus is. (V. 19-20)**

- How did John reiterate his theme of knowledge in verse 20?
- In our post-modern culture it is considered arrogant to claim to know anything dogmatically. Therefore, to our culture, the claims in 1 John 5:19-20 seem arrogant. List a couple reasons why believing the claims in these verses isn't arrogant.
- According to verse 20, how did we gain our knowledge? How should this humble us?