

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 2: Discovering Renewal in the Testimony of the Word

Discussion Questions

Discuss these first (about 15 minutes total)

1. How important is it to you that people you love know you and understand your heart and motives? How important is it to you that your *family* knows your heart and understands your motives? Why do we value the experience of “being known?” If you are willing, share a time when knowing someone or being known by someone impacted your situation, or when being misunderstood caused you pain.

Answer these (about 15 minutes total):

2. Based solely on *frequency* (that is, given the length of a book, the number of times a writer uses a particular word in comparison to other New Testament writers), the book of 1 John exceeds all other books in its use of these words: God, sin, life, light, dark(ness), and the verbs “to be,” “to know,” “to love,” and “to make known.” Given his repeated use of these words, what might one discern about John’s message?
3. Throughout in the Old Testament (more than 100 times! The book of Ezekiel alone records about 70 of these instances!), God tells of something amazing he is planning, then adds this reason: *so that (they, you) will know that I am the LORD your God, the God of (Abraham, Isaac, and/or Jacob)*. What does this tell you about God’s love? About God’s diligence? What does it mean to you to know this about your God?
4. Compare your desire to be known with God’s desire for His people to know Him. How might our desire to know and be known give us insight into the God who created us in His image?

Review the study questions from last week as well as your thoughts about Experience 2, using these prompts (about 25 minutes):

5. Which question(s), thought(s) or resulting idea(s) blessed your week?
6. To which question(s), thought(s), or idea(s) did you react with confusion or even disagreement?