

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 1: Discovering Renewal in the Father's Love

Study Questions

Read 1 John in the New Revised Standard Version and respond to the following questions.

1. According to the first four verses of 1 John, how can one trust that God is real and desires a relationship with us?

2. The book of 1 John speaks of two simple realities about the essence of God. What are they? (see 1.5 and 4.16b)

3. Take a moment to ponder light and darkness and their relationship to one another and their effects on everything around them. Jot down a few notes about your thoughts before you continue

4. What does it mean to me that no darkness—at all—exists in our God?
 - a. 1.6—
 - b. 1.7—
 - c. 1.9—
 - d. 2.9-11—
 - e. 3.2-3—

5. What does it mean to me that the essence of our God is love?
 - a. 3.1—
 - b. 3.16—
 - c. 3.23—
 - d. 4.7-12—

6. Consider your most intimate and wide range feelings about God and your relationship with Him. Take a few minutes to make a list of those feelings before you continue. Put a star by those feelings that might actually get in the way of growing in intimacy with God.

7. Give two motivations for a child of God to be honest and confessional in her relationship with God. (1.9-10)

8. How might I be sure that I have truly come to know God? (2.5) How does this letter describe the one who claims to know Him, but does not obey?

9. Compare 1.9-10 with 3.6. How can it be that we are liars if we say we have not sinned, while the book also claims that no one who sins has either seen him or known him?

10. Into what incredulous identity has everyone who does right been born? (2.29-3.1)

11. What more can a person hope to gain from this relationship? (3.2)

12. Twenty-two times the New Revised Standard version speaks of abiding. According to 1 John, a person abides in one of two camps. What are these two camps? (see 3.14-15) What is the sign that we possess this life? (3.14)

13. How do we know that we love one another as we should?
 - a. 3.16—
 - b. 4.17—
 - c. (5.2)—

14. What great benefits do we receive from truly loving our brothers? (3.18-22 and 4.17-18)

15. Why does the child of God not need to fear false prophets, even those John calls the “antichrist?” (4.4, 6)

16. What great gift has been given to us that has prompted the writing of this letter? (5.11, 13)

17. In 5.20, what was Jesus’ purpose?

18. Contemplate Jesus for a few more minutes. What can we know about God because of the testimony of Jesus?