

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

“Discovering Renewal in the Testimony of the Father’s Love”

Leaders’ Notes: Meeting 1

- For each group member, you will need a copy of
 - “Introduction to the Study.”
 - 1 John, New Revised Standard Version
 - 1 John Reader’s Theater (optional—must be in color)
 - “Prayer Prompts: Responding to God in Praise”
 - “Unit 1 Introduction”
 - “Study Questions” for Unit 1
- As you begin, read the “Introduction to the Study”-- distribute a copy of this introduction, have someone read it aloud to the group and briefly discuss the article, particularly the last sentence.
- Read 1 John in the New Revised Standard Version (a different version is made available for each unit).
- Optional--If you would like, you may distribute the Reader’s Theater Version of 1 John, assign parts, and read the text aloud. This allows your group to hear the reading twice, in two different versions. Though this may initially sound redundant, experience tells us that hearing the text repeatedly adds to the richness of the reading group experience.
- Lead your group in responding to the text: ask “What did you hear?” (**The reading of the text and this exercise is the heart of your group experience most weeks.**)
- Distribute and briefly discuss the “Prayer Prompts: Responding to God in Praise” instructions. Be sure that you have read this ahead of time and are comfortable with the format. Spend time in prayer.
- Distribute copies of Unit 1 Introduction and encourage group members to read it before the next session.
- Distribute the study questions and encourage group members to complete them before the next session.
- Remind them that they will also need to bring their copies of 1 John in the NRSV and the “Prayer Prompts” sheet for the following week.