



## Learning Your Song 1 John 3 Small Group Plan

It was Peter McWilliams who said that determination is simply a matter of shifting from “won't power” to “will power.” It was the Apostle John who said that faithfulness is a matter of shifting from “continue to sin” (3:9) to “continue in Him” (2:28). God’s power makes it happen, but our decision taps His power.

### OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Where does the decision to tap God’s power usually begin?
- What can bog that decision down?
- What helps to break that decision free of the bog?

### LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

#### — THE FATHER LOVES US —

1 John 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup> How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

- What has the love of God meant to you? To your family?

- John writes, “the world does not know us.” How does this fact effect the way that we live each day?
- John says God’s is “great” and it has been “lavished on us” (v. 1). How has the assurance of knowing God’s love changed your life?
- Why/how can our “hope in him” motivate us towards “purity” (v. 3)?

### — THE SON DIED FOR US —

#### 1 John 3:4-8

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

- How do you reconcile (3:6) “No one who lives in him keeps on sinning” with (1:8) “if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves”?
- How would you connect the two times John says Jesus “appeared” (vs. 5, 8)?
- How would you explain his appearing to an interested searcher?

### — THE SPIRIT LIVES IN US —

#### 1 John 3:9-10

<sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

- Explain the power of “God’s seed” remaining in us (v. 9)?
- What is a major incentive for you to live a clean and holy life?
- As you get older, do you find that sin is easier or more difficult to resist?
- What does John mean when he says, “he cannot go on sinning” (v. 9)?

### USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Why does spiritual transformation take time and patience?
- Are you usually patient with the spiritual progress you see in yourself and others? Explain.
- Close by asking God to help us to stay true to our faith decision.