



Test Results

1 John 5

Small Group Plan

Dear Lord, the more I know, the more I want to know. The further my search takes me as I look for meaning, joy, security, hope and relationship, the more I find You.

But I've not found everything and I'm not tired of searching. In fact, each step of discovery gives me more energy to continue.

I praise You for being larger than my capacity to see or understand. And I thank You for wanting me to know all that I can of Your love, Your grace and Your power.

Because of Jesus,
Amen.

— Bob Chisholm

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Why would a Christian stop seeking and searching for God?
- How would you describe the future life of the Christian who stops growing?
- Consider these positive indicators of a faith that is still growing:

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THEY BELIEVE IN JESUS —

1 John 5:1

¹ *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

- Consider these synonyms for “believe” — *trust, faith, loyalty, allegiance, commitment, devotion*. How do these synonyms help us to better understand what it means to “believe” in Jesus?
- Beyond our conversion, our new birth, what else does it mean to be “born of God”?

— THEY LOVE GOD —

1 John 5:2

² *This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.*

- How is our love for God a reflection of his love for us? How does he teach us to love?
- What spiritual disciplines can we consistently practice that will turn our thoughts more regularly to God?

— THEY LOVE GOD’S PEOPLE —

1 John 5:1-2

¹ *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.*

- Why is it true that living in God’s love will begin to form in us a love for his people?
- What does compassion **look like** when it is lived out in our daily actions?
- What does compassion **sound like** when it is in control of our conversations?

— THEY OBEY GOD’S COMMANDS—

1 John 5:3

³ *In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

- How can we know that what **God wants** is becoming what **we want**?
- How is **our obedience** a clear sign of **our love** for God?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Of the synonyms for “believe” — *trust, faith, loyalty, allegiance, loyalty, commitment, devotion* — which is the most meaningful to you? Explain.
- How have you been most affected by God’s love? How has it changed you?
- Is obedience, even when all is not clear to you, difficult or easy for you? Explain.
- Close by asking for God’s patience as we learn to “Trust and Obey.”