

1 John 2:1-14

Knowing God

Pray for your time together as a group.

Questions for Discussion

1 John 2 (NIV)

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

¹² I am writing to you, dear children,
because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

¹³ I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁴ I write to you, dear children,
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

? Verse 1 says that Jesus is our advocate. How does Jesus advocate for us?

? What does it mean to “know God”? (See vv. 3-6)

? How does knowing God allow us to better keep His commands?

? How do Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection give new life to the commands from the Old Testament?

Commands

In vv.7-8 John is talking about both an old and new command. He is referencing Leviticus 19:18, “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” and Matthew 22:37-40, “³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

? What does this passage say about the importance of community in our ability to follow God’s commands?

? Compare and contrast your experiences in Christian community and non-Christian community—especially when it comes to trying to follow God’s commands.

? John sets up two categories for Christian community, love or hate, with no middle ground. What does it mean to love your brothers and sisters versus hating your brothers and sisters? Why do you think there is no gray area within Christian community?

? In vv. 12-14 John addresses people with various levels of spiritual maturity. How do these encouragements and affirmations help us understand what people of different levels of spiritual maturity can offer to a community?

For Discussion and Accountability

? This passage discusses two ways to evaluate if we really know God: by obeying His commands (vs. 3) and by loving others (vs. 10). How are you doing in each of these areas?

? What is one way we can hold you accountable (by either obeying his commands or loving others) this next week?