



Anglican  
Church of Noosa

# BELIEVE LIVE IT

*the message of 1 John*

APRIL/MAY 2021



1 John in a nutshell . . .

'We know we know Christ  
if we seek to live like Christ and  
hold to the truth about Christ.'

Carl Laferson

To ponder .... is this a dilemma arising out of 1 John?

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*If you sin you can't claim to know God.  
If you say you have no sin you are a liar.  
So how is it really possible to know God?*

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# *Connect Groups*

At the Anglican Church of Noosa, the primary avenue for discipleship is in a Connect Group.

We strongly encourage everyone to be involved because these groups are specifically designed to help us grow as disciples.

The normal pattern for a Connect Group time is to have three sections: connecting with each other, connecting with the Word and connecting with God through prayer - in any order.

We need time to relate to one another by connecting personally. Depending on the members, this can be done in a variety of ways.

As we get into the Word, we examine its truth and relevance in order to apply it to our lives. Scripture is explored, explained and discussed, and the goal is to minister to each other's lives through what is learned, not necessarily to finish all the material.

Prayer is a vital part of a Connect Group's time together. Leave plenty of time so your prayer is not rushed. This is not just an 'opening' or 'closing' prayer, but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God, in a simple and conversational way. This is where the action is! The goal is to create a space where people feel enabled and comfortable to pray, and can see God at work.

## *1 John – a brief intro...*

With the number of times you will find the word 'love' in this short letter, we could easily call 1 John a 'love letter'!

There is no greeting at the start, so we are making a well-founded assumption that the writer is the Apostle John, the same writer as the Gospel which bears his name. There are many similarities which we will find as we move through.

It is clear that John speaks with authority, expecting to be taken seriously. He also speaks very strongly at times, yet his pastoral concern also comes through. He speaks clearly about those who would lead his readers astray, wanting to expose false teachers.

He is making a simple but radical requirement for love and obedience, which resonates very clearly with Jesus' teaching.

So..... together, let's Believe It and Live It!

# WEEK 1

## 1 JOHN 1:1 - 2:2

# LIGHT

### NOTES

As we begin this series together, pray for...

- a mind that will understand 1 John,
- a heart that is willing to be challenged by 1 John, and
- a life that will be transformed by 1 John.

## Introduction

Share with your group your experience of finding out that God is light, and making the decision to walk in the light.

## Believe It

The early Church and the style of the letter both indicate that the author is the apostle John, but the sender doesn't identify himself. He does, however, give us his credentials for writing.

### vv.1-4

1. What does John say about his relationship with 'the Word of life'?  
Why should this make us excited and humbled as we read 1 John?
2. Check out Genesis 1 and the first chapter of the Gospel of John.  
What common and contrasting themes do you find with the beginning of 1 John?

## vv.5-10

3. What does John say about God?  
What does John say about us?
4. What are the three lies in vv.6,8,10?
5. How do vv.7 & 9 counteract these lies?

## 2:1-2

6. We shouldn't sin, but if we do, what do we know?

## Live It

7. vv.1,5 What is it that has been there from the beginning?  
How can we be sure to continue taking hold of it?
8. How have your relationships with others become more authentic since you have confessed your sins and become a follower of Christ?
9. vv.7,9 and 2:1-2. How do these verses encourage you to accept that you're a sinner, confess your sins and seek to live a pure life?  
How might you do that today?

## Prayer

Pray for our church fellowship to grow more and more into the light of Christ, walking with him, confessing our sins and finding forgiveness.

## Memory Verse – 1 John 1:5

*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."*

## NOTES

## NOTES

### Introduction

Share with others a time in your life when you took the consequences for your disobedience?

### Believe It

#### vv.3-8

1. How do we know that we have come to know Jesus?  
How does this challenge you?
2. Read John 13:34-35. Compare this with what John is saying in his letter.
3. Why do you think 'obedience' is thought of as a negative thing? What do you see are the positives of obedience?
4. What does John say about the darkness and the light?

#### vv.9-14

5. What do these verses teach us about relationships in the body of Christ?  
How can we encourage one another?

## Live It

6. How do we know if we really are Christians?
7. In what ways are you obeying God's commands well?
8. How are you struggling?
9. What do you need to change?

## Prayer

Pray for each other to have tender hearts and loving spirits as we each seek to truly love one another.

### Memory Verse – 1 John 2:5,6

*"But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."*

## NOTES

### Introduction

Share around the group how you would define truth.

Have a short discussion about the way truth is understood in the world today.

### Believe It

#### vv.15-17

1. How would John describe a person who is in love with the world?
2. What does it show if we do love the world?
3. vv. 16 How would you define the three things John describes about the world?
4. v.17 What must we remember in order to resist the world?

#### vv.18-29

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. The 'antichrist' probably refers to a man who is coming, to proclaim himself to be Christ. These people oppose the truth that Jesus is the Christ [v.22] – they are 'anti Christ'.



5. vv.19,22 How have these people identified themselves and what is the lie being promoted?

## Live It

6. Identify ways in which you're tempted to love the ways of the world.
7. How can v.17 motivate you to love God and not the world?

The best way to love the world less is to love the Lord more. You already have in Christ Jesus, everything that the world is seeking: true satisfaction, security and worth.

8. v.22 How can we avoid believing a lie?

## Prayer

Pray that you would find your satisfaction increasingly in Christ, so that you are able to resist pursuing worldly ways.

Pray for anyone you know who is seeking to hold to the truth when their church is straying from the Biblical teaching about Christ?

### Memory Verse – 1 John 2:24

*"As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does you also will remain in the Son and in the Father."*

## NOTES

### Introduction

What does purity mean to you?

Why do you think it's a word that isn't used much these days?

### Believe It

**vv.1-10**

1. How does God's love motivate us to purity?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How seriously do we take sin
  - in our lives,
  - in our church,
  - in our community?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. v.6 What does John say is the result if we live 'in him'?

4. Read Genesis 4:2b-12. What did Cain do and why?  
How does Jesus show us a different way?
5. v.16 How can we know what love is?  
And how do we show that we know what love is?

## Live It

6. How much 'slack' do you give yourself when it comes to sin?  
How can you take it more seriously?
7. Think of a sin you find yourself committing over and over again. What difference could it make if you say to yourself:  
*'I know Jesus. I know I am a child of God.  
Am I really going to act as though I don't know him, and don't have a heavenly Father?'*
8. How could you, this week, lay down a part of your life in order to love a brother or sister?  
Will you do it?

## Prayer

Thank God that Jesus laid down his life for us!

### Memory Verse – 1 John 3:2b-3

*"But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves just as he is pure."*

**NOTES**

**Introduction**

Do you tend to be overly trusting, or overly critical?

Do you tend to believe all you hear or doubt all you hear?

**Believe It**

Chapter 4 takes us right into the heart of John's concern for his readers.

**vv.1-6**

1. What mustn't John's friends do, and what should they do instead? Why?
2. How can we recognise those through whom the Spirit of God is speaking?
3. How can we discern those who speak with 'the spirit of the antichrist'?
4. v.5 Why do you think certain viewpoints become popular both inside and outside the church?



5. How has God shown his love? What does it mean to you that Jesus is God's atoning sacrifice?
  
6. vv.4:10 and. 2:2. Most versions use the words 'atoning sacrifice. The KJV and the ESV use the word 'propitiation'.  
What is distinctive about this particular word?
  
7. vv.13-19 Knowing God should make a difference in our lives.  
Name two differences you find in these verses.

## **Live It**

8. How are you relying on God's love today?
  
9. How are you loving others because God loves you?  
What could you do differently?

## **Prayer**

Ask God for wisdom, discernment and courage to live for Him.

Let God know how thankful you are for His lavish and comprehensive love.

### **Memory Verse – 1 John 4:9**

*"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."*

**NOTES**

## **Introduction**

How do you think faith is seen in the eyes of the world?

How has your faith made a tangible difference in your life?

## **Believe It**

### **vv.1-12**

1. How does v.1 summarise what we've seen previously about holding to the truth of Christ?
2. v.4 What happens to everyone born of God?
3. vv.9,10 Why is it important we accept God's testimony?

### **vv.13-17**

It's difficult to tell what John had in mind when he refers to 'a sin that leads to death'. Judaism distinguished between deliberate sins [open rebellion against God] and inadvertent sins that could be atoned for. It might refer to the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit [Mark 3:29], but is more likely to be linked with false teaching that wilfully denies Jesus, or the sin of refusing to ask Jesus to forgive us.

4. What do these verses teach us about helping a brother or sister in Christ who has wandered away?

5. What is the problem with idol worship?
6. These verses are like a summary of John's main teaching. How would you summarise it for yourself?

## **Live It**

7. How might the truths of vv.1-12 help you to share with someone who believes in God, but not in his Son?
8. In these verses faith, love and obedience come together like three legs of a stool. How can we keep them central in a life of busyness and ordinariness?
9. How has the letter of 1 John ....
  - helped you enjoy God's love more?
  - caused you to love him more?
  - prompted you to obey him and to love his people in a new way?
  - given you confidence that what you believe is true?
10. As we conclude this series, can you articulate an answer to the big dilemma from page 2.

## **Prayer**

Use your answers to the questions above to feed your prayer time today, and close by thanking God for his testimony about who Jesus is, for the historical events of Jesus' life, and for the word of the Spirit in you and each other. Thank him that as you remain in Christ, you overcome the world.

### **Memory Verse – 1 John 5:5**

*"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith."*

