



## Reflection and Discussion Guide - Week 11

### 1 John 5:13-21

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God

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1. Read and discuss verse 20. What did John mean when he said that we were “given” understanding by the Son of God? Why is the gospel the most foundational truth that Christians know?
  2. In verse 19, John said that we know we are from God. What did he mean by this? How do we know that we are from God and not under the power of the evil one? Read John 1:12-13. How does knowing that you are a child of God help you in times of doubt?
  3. In verse 18, John said that no one born of God keeps on sinning. What did John mean by that? What did he not mean? (See 1 John 1:8-10) How does knowing that Jesus protects us from sin and evil bring you comfort?
  4. In verses 14-15, John said we can have confidence that God answers our prayers when we ask according to His will. How do we know God’s will? How does this approach to prayer differ from popular notions of prayer associated with prosperity theology? What needs to happen in us in so that we pray according to God’s will?
  5. In verses 16-17, John delineated between sin that leads to death and sin that doesn’t lead to death. Discuss what John meant by both of those things. How should we pray for those whose sin does not lead to death? Should we pray for those whose sin leads to death? If so, how?
  6. Discuss verse 13. As Christians, why do we know that we have eternal life and not just guess at it? What is the practical significance of having this certainty? What could shake our certainty about this, or any of the other things that John says we should know? (See verse 21)