CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS

JUNE062026

Scripture Story: 1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 4:7-16; 2 John 1:7-11.
Commentary: *The Acts of the Apostles* (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapters 53-55.

love power



Photo by Terrill Thomas

flashlight

"In the life of the disciple John true sanctification is exemplified. During the years of his close association with Christ, he was often warned and cautioned by the Saviour; and these reproofs he accepted. As the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, John saw his own deficiencies, and was humbled by the revelation. Day by day, in contrast with his own violent spirit, he beheld the tenderness and forbearance of Jesus, and heard His lessons of humility and patience. Day by day his heart was drawn out to Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master" (*The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 557).

keytext

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! . . . Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

(1 John 3:1, 2, NIV)

what do you think?

Write T (True) or F (False) by the statements below with which you agree or disagree.

____ Love is as important to your mind and body as oxygen.
____ True love happens when someone "sweeps you off your feet."
____ Most people learn about the true meaning of love from reading the Bible.
____ Love is a Person.
____ Love and truth are two separate things.
____ You cannot love God and the world at the same time.
____ Love is a feeling.
____ True love changes you.

did you know?

It was John's deep love for Christ which led him always to desire to be close by His side. The Savior loved all the Twelve, but John's was the most receptive spirit. He was younger than the others, and with more of the child's confiding trust he opened his heart to Jesus. Thus he came more into sympathy with Christ, and through him the Savior's deepest spiritual teaching was communicated to the people."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 545.

INTO THE STORY

God Is Light

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us."

God Is Love, So We Must Love

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 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. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

"This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

God Is Truth

"Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work."

(1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 4:7-16; 2 John 7-11, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Circle the parts of the Scripture story that are new to you, the concepts you've never heard before.

Place a check mark by what you think is the most important point in each section of the Scripture story.

Why do you think John begins his letter by describing God as "light"? Why does he state that there is no darkness in God?

What points does John make about sin?

According to John, how do we show that we love God? How does God show His love for us?

Why is it important that people who profess to believe in God "continue" in the truth?

punch lines

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" **(Galatians 5:6, NIV).**

"Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life" **(Jude 21, NIV).**

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" **(Ephesians 5:11, NIV).**

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" **(John 1:14, NIV).**

"I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock" **(Acts 20:29, NIV).**

further insight

"There may be marked defects in the character of an individual, yet when he becomes a true disciple of Christ, the power of divine grace transforms and sanctifies him."

—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 559

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read 1 John 4:16 and 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Take a moment to complete the *What Do You Think?* activity. Discuss your answers with the class once everyone finishes. Love is one of the most misunderstood concepts in our world. We know it when we see it, but how do we learn to love? Well, John more than any other disciple, tried to make clear the true meaning of love and its power to transform us.

Read 1 John 4:16. According to John, is love someone or something?

_____

Based on John's conclusion about the source of love, can one achieve true love without a relationship with God? Explain your answer.

_____

What special power does God's love possess? (2 Corinthians 5:14).

_____

Sunday

Read Luke 9:49.

Read the *Into the Story* section of this week's lesson, and answer the *Out of the Story* questions. Earlier in chapter 1 of John's first letter, he declares that God is "light." Light allows us to see things. It dispels and repels physical and spiritual darkness.

Read Luke 9:49. What "darkness" do you see in John's character?

_____

This week's Scripture story was written by John after he had spent much time with Jesus, after the Holy Spirit had helped him overcome much of the darkness in his character. What dark areas of your life need God's light?

_____

Monday

Read 1 John 3:1, 2.

This week's *Key Text* contains one of the most powerful truths in all of Scripture.

Think for a moment. What things might block us from experiencing the joy of being saved, from knowing that we are *now* God's children?

_____

Read Isaiah 59:2. Sin breaks our intimacy with God. We feel far away from God. Does God abandon us (1 John 1:9)? While God still loves us, what danger is there in continuing to commit known sin (1 Timothy 4:1, 2)?

_____

Tuesday

Read 1 John 1:1-4.

This week's *Flashlight* quotation is one of the best descriptions of how a close love relationship with Jesus Christ transforms a person. John loved Jesus. He wasn't perfect when he followed Jesus, but each day spent in Jesus' presence slowly transformed John.

Read 1 John 1:1-4 to get a picture of how John describes the Jesus whom He shared with others. Write down the descriptive words that John uses to prove that he knew Jesus.

_____

John physically walked, talked, and lived with Jesus. Since Jesus isn't here physically, how can we get to "know" Him the way that John did? Read John 16:12-15.

_____

Wednesday

Which of the *Punch Lines* speak to you, catch your attention?

During John's time, some false teachers claimed that Jesus was not the Son of God. They taught that since all matter was evil—the human body included—God would never permit His perfect sinless nature to be mixed with sinful human flesh.

Why do you think this doctrine was dangerous? What happens to humanity if Jesus' sinless life, death, and resurrection are wiped away?

_____

What did John call people who dismiss Jesus' existence and sacrifice for sin (1 John 2:22, 23)? Are those people still around today? Explain.

_____

Thursday

Read 1 John 3:13-18.

According to John, how do we know that we have crossed over from death to sin to being alive in Christ?

_____

List one way that you can show each of the people below that you love them.

1. Your parents: _____
2. A senior citizen at your church: _____
3. Someone at your school who gets picked on a lot: _____

Friday

Read John 17:3.

John the Beloved wrote this about knowing God: "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3, NIV).

Take a moment to reflect on these two questions: Do you know God? Does God know you?

this week's reading*

The Acts of the Apostles (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapters 53-55.

**Unlikely Leaders* is a special adaptation of *The Acts of the Apostles,* created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.