

SJK Bible Study Guide, week following Sunday 31 March 2019.

JT Introductory Comment:

We've been reading through the first letter of John the Apostle/ the Elder. We get the sense that John really loves his readers, but more importantly, that he wants his readers to know just how much God loves them.

The letter has something of a rambling feel to it, with several themes that keep returning:

- The identity of Jesus, the Christ, light of the world.
- The centrality of love in the Christian fellowship/ church.
- The assurance of salvation – you can be sure.

Today's Passage: 1 John 4.7 through 5.5

Read the passage, maybe twice and maybe from two different translations.

Discuss Together:

1. First, in the group, try to summarise the passage. Try for just one or two sentences for each section.

4.7-12

4.13-19

4.20-21

5.1-5
2. Are there any words, verses or ideas that strike, intrigue or puzzle you? Discuss ...
3. Even though he does not name them outright, John is exposing some current false teachings that had marched into the church. The headings (extras added by the bible translators) for 1 John 2.18-27 and 1 John 4.1-6 draw attention to this.

What do you think were the false teachings that prompted John to write today's passage, 1 John 4.7 through 5.5?
4. Why is LOVE one of the defining qualities of God's Family? See especially 4.7-8 and 4.19-21. If it is 'one of the defining qualities', what are the others?
5. There are plenty of definitions of love in the world. How does John define LOVE and what is his justification for this definition? See especially 4.9-10.
6. What do verses 11-12 say, and what do they mean?
7. Four times John uses the word "confidence". In what can God's children have confidence? See 2.28, 3.21, 4.17 and 5.14.
8. 5.4 "For everyone who have been born of God overcomes the world." What does the "For" indicate, and in what sense do Christians overcome the world? See especially 5.1-5.
9. **COMPULSORY:** In very practical terms, how can we show love, in our human families, in the church, in our suburb and city and country, in the world? John gives one example in 3.17.