

# First John

## Spring 2026

### Dr. Matthew Johnson

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“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.”  
(1 John 5:13–14 ESV)

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#### I. OVERVIEW & SCOPE

This class will focus on the text of the letter known as First John. The purpose of the class is to reveal the structure of the letter, to analyze the content, and to determine what practical applications come out of the text so that participants have something to act on each week. Attention will also be given to an inductive approach to Bible study that participants can practice on their own each week.

#### II. RESOURCES ON FIRST JOHN

- Bauer, David R. *Inductive Bible Study - a Comprehensive Guide to the Practice of Hermeneutics*. Baker Publishing Group, 2014.
- Stott, John R. W. *The Letters of John : An Introduction and Commentary*. Inter-Varsity Press; Downers Grove, Ill, 2009.

#### III. SESSION SCHEDULE

1.	Session 1:	4/8/2026	Introduction
2.	Session 2:	4/15/2026	Chapter 1
3.	Session 3:	4/22/2026	Chapter 2
4.	Session 4:	4/29/2026	Chapter 3
5.	Session 5:	5/6/2026	Chapter 4
6.	Session 6:	5/13/2026	Chapter 5

**First John**  
**Spring 2026**  
**Dr. Matthew Johnson**  
**Week 1**

**What are we doing here?**

We're going to dig into the 1st Letter of John.

**Why?**

Because it describes a life lived in the Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ that we are all being called to. Everyone of us. There are some strong statements in this letter that are going to make us uncomfortable, and I want us to wrestle with those statements. They ought to make us uncomfortable because they are at odds with how the world tells us we ought to be living.

*“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”*

(1 John 2:15–16 ESV)

**A Close and Careful Reading: Inductive Bible Study**

In inductive study, we allow the details, through a close and careful reading of the text, to lead us to a general sense of the whole.

**Steps in Inductive Study**

1) Observe as we read.

- Identify the materials. In other words, what is the genre? Is it history, poetry, a theological treatise?
- Identify the structure.

2) Interpretation

3) Application.

**Homework:**

1. Read 1 John through in one sitting. Multiple times if you can.
2. Name each chapter with a one or two word description. For instance, you might describe chapter 1 as “light” or “purpose.”
3. As you read, note the words that seem to pop up a lot. If you notice two ideas pitted against each other (contrast), note that as well.
4. Be ready to discuss Chapter 1 next week

**NOTES:**