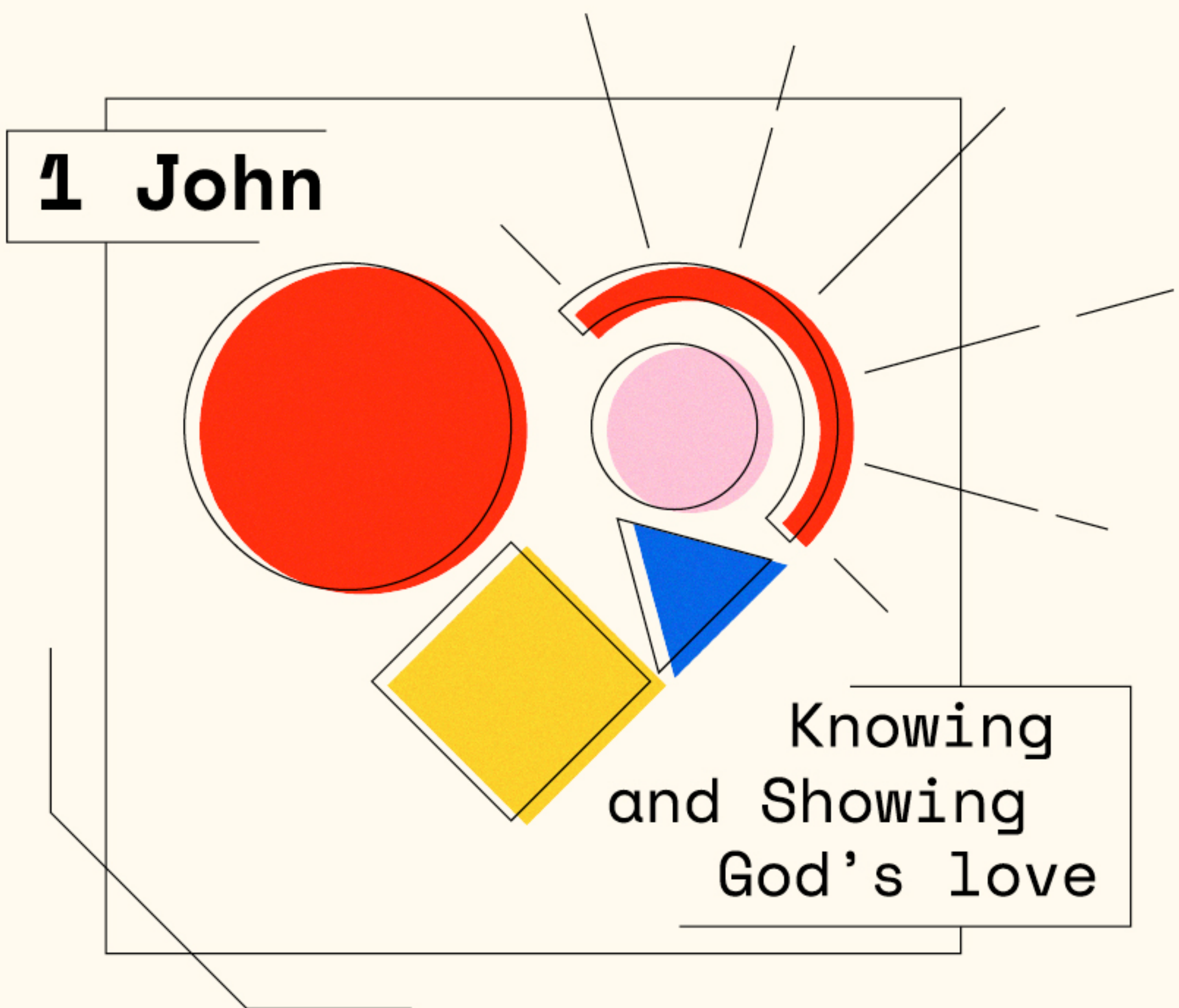


Small Group Notes

Sermon: 30 January 2022



Overview

John continues to address his readers lovingly and strongly with an encouragement to not sin. This should be our desire but we (and John) know that this is not possible. John explains that we have an advocate in Jesus who speaks for us for ongoing forgiveness based on our belief in Jesus.

John then talks about how our behaviour should reflect our belief that if we know him we will obey his commandments and walk as Jesus did

1 John 2:1-6

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Questions

1. What does it mean for you that Christ is your advocate, who speaks for you? (Maybe consider how we'd present ourselves if we were our own advocates!)
2. Think of someone that you know/ have known of whom you could say, "That person really knows God". What is/was it about that person that made you think this?
3. Why does John focus on obedience to Christ's commands? How can we make sure that this is not legalistic?
4. What does it mean in verse 5 that God's love is perfected in us/made complete in us? Can you share examples of that in your life?
5. In our everyday situations what does it mean to walk like Jesus did? What opportunities and challenges have you experienced as a result?