



## Week 6 Study Guide

### Read the text: 1 John 2:12-14

*12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

### Study the Text

- What do you see? Don't think meaning at this point; just make some observations. What jumps out to you, what are repeated words, what questions do you have, what are important elements in this text?
- These couple verses are unique. They are poetic and seem like a quick break from what John has been saying so far. It's almost like he feels the need to pause for a second. Why does he include these verses? Consider the context of what he has said so far and his purpose in writing.
- Why might John use these different designations (little children, young men, fathers) as he is trying to encourage this church?
- What does it mean that we are forgiven for "his name's sake"?
- John wants his readers to know that their sins are forgiven (he has already spoken of forgiveness in this letter so it's a point of emphasis for him). So why is it so important that his readers (and for us) to be convinced that our sins are forgiven?
- What does John mean by the phrase "know him who is from the beginning"? Think of what he means by "from the beginning" and what he has said about knowing God. Why does he use this phrase in reference to "fathers" (those in the church who are spiritually mature)? How does "knowledge of God" point to maturity?
- How would his words to the young men (those who are younger in their faith) be an encouragement? Consider the context of the letter... what is the evidence that have overcome the evil one? *They have not been duped by the false teachers. And think of the verses earlier about sin. No doubt he has in mind that they have overcome Satan by resisting sin and confessing sin when they fell into it.*

- How does Satan, the evil one, work? Look at some passages: John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18, Revelation 12:10, Mark 4:1-9...notice what Satan does with the Word.
- How does the Word of God make us strong and enable us to overcome the evil one?
- How do these verses encourage you and give you greater confidence?
- How do these verses challenge you to grow in maturity?
- In these verses we see John encouraging other Christians. How does he do this? How can you encourage others in a similar way?

**Prayer:**

What is there to thank God for? Name as many things as you can from the text.

What is there to confess?

What can I ask God for (for me and others)?

**Mission:** With Easter coming up, let's begin praying for Easter services and for those around us who don't know Jesus. Is there someone that you will invite to Easter services?