



Week 17 Study Guide

Read the text: 1 John 5:13-20

*13 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. 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. 16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that. 17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. 18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 **Little children, keep yourselves from idols.***

Study the Text

- Since this is our last time in this letter, take some time (maybe 15-20 minutes) to summarize what this letter has been all about. Why did John write it? What are the major themes? What are some of the key lessons in this letter?
- Why does John end his letter this way?
- What is idolatry? Look at Romans 1:18-32.
- Read these passages about idolatry: Jeremiah 2:1-13, Isaiah 44:9-20, Psalm 115. What is idolatry according to these passages? Why is it so offensive to God and why is it so foolish?
- What has John said so far that relates to idolatry? How are verses 20-21 a fitting end to this letter?
- What are some of the idols in our culture? How does our culture fuel idolatry? How are you guilty of idolatry?

- As we close this series, what has God been teaching you? What have you learned about good Bible study? What are the main ways you need to apply this letter?

Prayer: We have been trying to encourage you to develop a habit of responding to God's Word in prayer. So let's do it again...

- What is there to praise God for in this letter that we are finishing?
- What sins are there to confess, especially related to idolatry?
- What can I/should I ask God for?

Mission: Follow up from last week...did you talk to anyone about Jesus? What plans do you have to invite someone to church, talk to someone this week about Jesus, or initiate a conversation with a nonbeliever?