

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: Living Proof - How Real Faith Shows Up In Real Life. 1-2-3 John.

Message 12: Finding Confidence in Christ - 1 John 5:1-12

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Connect (25min)

>> Break into groups of 3-4 people to enhance this time

1. **Share 3 Positive Keys from your life:**
 - a. A Key Person
 - b. A Key Place
 - c. A Key Event/Experience
2. **Confident Relationships. Think about the closest relationship you have:**
 - What are the things that make you confident in that friendship?
 - How do you know that person cares about you?
 - What are some of the ways you show the people you care about to make them feel confident in your relationship with them?

Message Discussion (50min)

Sunday Recap

- **Read Sunday's Scripture:** [1 John 5:1-12](#).
- **The BIG Idea:** *We're not saved because our faith is strong.*
We're saved because the One we've trusted is faithful.
- Just like relationships have signs that give us confidence, John says God has given us **clear evidence** that we belong to Him.

1. NEW BIRTH - God's gift of new life

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God...

John doesn't begin with behaviour or performance. He begins with birth.

- How does John's emphasis on *birth* (not behaviour) reshape the way we think about becoming a Christian?
- Why do you think many Christians drift back into "trying harder" instead of living from new birth?
- If your faith is evidence of God's work in you rather than something you achieved, how does that change the pressure you feel in your relationship with God?
- Read **John 3:1-7**. Have you ever had a moment like Nicodemus, wishing you could start over? How does new birth speak to that longing?

2. REAL LOVE - God grows it

1 Everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.

John says those who love the Father will love His children.

- Why is loving other Christians sometimes difficult?
- Why is love such strong evidence that God has changed someone's heart?
- We don't choose our spiritual family; we receive them. How does that challenge the way we relate to people in the church?
- How does remembering that God adopted us into His family change the way we view difficult people?

3. OBEDIENCE - *God transforms it*

³***Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.***

John says God's commands "are not burdensome."

- What's the difference between fear-based obedience and love-based obedience?
- Rebirth changes the want-to, not just the have-to. Where have you seen that in your own walk?
- When have you discovered that God's commands were actually for your good?
- Is there an area where God is inviting you to trust Him through obedience right now?

4. VICTORY - *Christ secures it*

⁴***For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.***

John says believers overcome the world through faith.

- What does "the world" try to tell us about our identity and value?
- Where do you most feel pressure to prove yourself?
- Where are you still trying to prove yourself instead of resting in what Jesus has already done?
- How does knowing Jesus already secured victory change how you face hardship?

5. God's Testimony - *God declares it*

⁷***So we have these three witnesses- ⁸ the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and all three agree.***

John describes three witnesses: The Water, The Blood, The Spirit.

- Why is God's testimony more trustworthy than our own feelings?
- What encourages you most about knowing "the witnesses agree"?
- Why is God's testimony more dependable than our own emotions?

6. ASSURANCE - *God guarantees it*

"Whoever has the Son has life..." (v.12)

John wants believers to know, not merely hope, that they have eternal life.

- What tends to shake your confidence in your relationship with God?
- Why do you think many sincere Christians struggle with assurance?
- How does this passage answer those fears?

7. CHALLENGE:

- Each morning this week, read **1 John 5:11-12** aloud. ***"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life."***
- Then ask yourself: **Today, am I trusting my performance... or God's testimony?**

Prayer (15min)

>> Break into groups of 3-4 people to enhance this time and pray for one another.

- Thank God for the gift of new birth.
- Pray for deeper love within the church.
- Ask God to make your obedience joyful.
- Pray for victory over the world's lies.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your confidence in Christ.
- Thank Jesus that our assurance rests in His faithfulness rather than our performance.