

BRIARWOOD WOMEN OF THE COVENANT MIDWEEK STUDY 1 2 3 JOHN

Elizabeth Bondurant ebondurant@briarwood.org 205- 500 -9812

Tentative Teaching Schedule:

Date	Lesson/ Passage
Sept. 3	1 John 1:1- 4 Introduction/ God is Life
Sept. 10	1 John 1:5 - 2:2 This is the Message - God is Light Part 1
Sept 17	1 John 2:3 - 14 This is the Message - God is Light Part 2
Sept 24	1 John 2:15- 27 This is the Message - God is Light Part 3
Oct. 1	1 John 2:28- 3:3 Living as Children - Part 1
Oct. 8	1 John 3:4 - 10 Living as Children - Part 2
Oct. 15	1 John 3:11 - 24 This is the Message - God is Love Part 1
Oct. 22	1 John 4:1-21 This is the Message - God is Love Part 2
Oct. 29	1 John 5:1 - 21 This is the Message - God is Love Part 3
Nov. 5	2 John A note for the "elect lady"
Nov 12	3 John A note for the beloved Gaius

WEEK ONE

I. Introductions of Ourselves

II. Introduction of 1, 2, 3, John

- **Author / Context**
- **Historical Context**
- **Purpose / Key Verses**
 - *Commentator Charles E Hill --- Great and most recently published Intro to 1-3 John --- says 3 fold purpose:*
 - **Assurance** (1Jn. 5:13 I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life....) - books are filled with "tests" - or distinctions of true believers--- both doctrinal and behavioral distinguishers...
 - **Fellowship** (1 Jn 1:3 so that you too may have fellowship with us... and we are writing these things to you so that our joy may be complete) -- John wants all true believer to have deep fellowship with God and with each other.... and the joy that comes from this.
 - **To Counteract False Teachers....** (1 Jn 3: 7 - little children - let no one deceive you; beloved - do not believe everything but test the spirits...)
- **The Main Message**
 - 1 Jn 1:1-4 the life was made manifest, the eternal life which was with the Father was made manifest.....
 - 1 Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.
 - 1 Jn 3:11 And this is the message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another. (because God is love.)

III. The Passage - 1 John 1:1-4: God is LIFE!

A. The Pronouncement v. 1-2

- Echoes Genesis 1, John 1 and Proverbs 8
- He is again talking about the WORD --- the "LOGOS" - *Jesus says my "words" will not pass away - The word is eternal and powerful. It is*
 1. **The "WORD" is God's authority dispensed** - Mt 8:8
 2. **The "WORD" is God's truth dispensed** - in Mark 9; John 17
 3. **The "WORD" is God's creation and beauty dispensed.** Psalm 19, John 1:1-3
 4. **The "WORD" is God's presence dispensed.** John 5 & 15
 5. **And last - the "WORD" is God's judgement dispensed.** John 8:37, John 12:48
- Webster defines life as the quality that establishes vitality and functional being and then goes on to also say it is the underlying source that causes things to move, grow and reproduce.
- John teaches us that Jesus alone is life. Other scripture reinforces that he alone gives life, sustains life and takes away life.
 - Acts 17:25 , 28 - nor is he served by human hands as if he needed anything, since he himself gives life to all mankind and breath and everything.... For in him we live and move and have our being.
 - Gen 2:7 - for the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed life into his nostrils...
 - Romans 4:17 - he who gives life to the dead and calls into existence that which does not exist.
 - Job 1:21 - The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
 - Job 34:14-15 If he should set his heart to it and gather his spirit and his breath, all flesh would perish and man would return to dust.

And more than just Physical life--- he also is our inner LIFE -

- John 10:10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly
- Deuteronomy 30 - See I have set before you today life and good, death and evil... life and death, blessing and curse.
- John 6:68 - Lord to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Ephesians 2:4-5 When we were dead in our sin, he made us alive together with Christ
- Colossians 3:3-4 For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- Philippians 1:21 - For me to live is Christ.
- 1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life and that life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life. Whoever does not have the Son does not have life.

B. The Experience of the Eyewitnesses & the invitation to us v. 2- 4

“The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

- John Eldridge book - Called Experiencing Jesus Really
 - Biblical Christianity was always, always meant to be deeply experiential.
 - Eldridge says that Humanity at this moment it living in utter poverty.. but there is a way home. We are meant to live within the refuge of God...Everyone needs a place to feel safe. And for us - Jesus - the WORD of Life- is our safe place. We must learn to and long to experience Him in the way he intended - in the way his apostles did.
 - John 17 - *Father, the glory that you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one as we are one... I in them and you I me... and you have loved them even as you have loved me*

IV. Discussion in small partners/ groups

- If you had a “bent” towards one of these directions concerning how you relate with God... do you lean towards the “pragmatic” end (tell me what to do! I like knowing the steps or what to do to be a better Christian) or do you lean toward the “experiential” end (I just want to feel near him)?
- - Wherever you tend to lean... how does this passage help you think through this and what are your takeaways?

V. Prayer to close