



Assurance & Obedience | Sunday, February 15, 2026

(5-10 min) Optional Ice Breaker: Are you more likely to follow a rule or break it?

LEADERS: Please share these announcements with your home group!

Announcements

FAITH and WORK FORUM: The Faith & Work Forum (Friday, February 27 | 6:30pm), with teaching from Dr. Jonathan Pennington and a discussion panel, will help anyone in business, school, ministry, or raising a family to connect their everyday work and activity with God's mission and redemptive purposes. Register [HERE](#) or at the Citizens website.

SPRING TRAINING & MISSION CLASSES: Our spring classes are in swing, but it's not too late to join! Register now to join men's or women's [Bible Class](#) or [Living on Mission](#).

SPRING SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

OIKOS, BIG BLUE, and MATTHEW PARTY: Click [HERE](#) for three simple but powerful ways to engage missionally with unbelievers as a group. Make plans with your group to try each one sometime this Spring and let us know how it goes!

HELP SHORT TERM MISSION GOERS: Every short term mission goer needs support: prayer, encouragement, and financial. Choose a goer (or family) from [THIS LIST](#) and commit as a group to support them. Make sure to add your group's name to the list, as we hope to have each goer adopted by a home group.

ALPHA COMETS: Alpha Comets helps UT Dallas international students experience community and explore life's big questions. Help them learn about Jesus and engage the gospel by praying and providing a meal. Learn more and sign up [HERE!](#)



CITIZENS CHURCH

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Read God's Word Aloud

1 John 2:1-14

2:1 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.

7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. **8** At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. **9** Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. **10** Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. **11** But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

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.



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Discuss God's Word and God's World

Important: *The goal is to use this Guide to spark sanctifying conversation and opportunities for intercessory prayer, not to “get through” every question like a checklist. Feel free to linger on the questions that best facilitate that for your group.*

Start here: *Take a few moments to share and reflect together on what stood out to you from this week's Bible passage and the sermon about it.*

- In this week's passage, what is the test given for knowing God? Do you know any other Scripture passages that affirm this test?
- What is the “new” command? How does it relate to Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:34-40?
- How does the promise God gives in 1 John 2:12 impact your understanding of God's love and your desire to obey him?
- Of the affirmations given to John's church in 1 John 2:12-14, which do you most need to hear today? Why?
- How has your obedience to God strengthened your communion with him? How has disobedience weakened it? Share a personal example.
- Which of God's commands are you struggling to obey in this season?
- Two believing [people] in your [home] group hold radically different political views. They are constantly in conflict. How would you counsel them to live in light of 1 John 2:7-11?*



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Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Take a few silent moments to meditate together on these two remarkable gifts: Jesus, the perfectly righteous one, paid for our sin...and because of that, we can actually *know* God. Then praise and thank him for them together.

God, thank you for clearly and compassionately articulating why (the life and death of Jesus) and how (our grateful and loving obedience) we can know you. Forgive us when we over complicate it and when we get distracted from it. We long to obey. We long to know you better. We need and accept your help.

Have someone read 1 John 2:12 aloud, then rest in its truth together. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unconfessed sin and trust one another with it. Ask him to help you obey and love him more and more as you start a new day tomorrow.

Family Memory Verse of the Month for January

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:16 (ESV)

*This question was taken from *Abide: A Study of 1, 2, & 3 John* by Jen Wilkin, the Bible study guide used in Citizens Bible classes this semester.