

January 4, 2026.

**Sunday School
Bible Study** 

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Scripture Study

1 John 1:5–2:6

Devotional Reading:

Isaiah 59:1–8

Background Scripture:

Genesis 3:1–24

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- 1. John the Apostle, was one of the original Twelve disciples of Jesus. His authorship includes: The Gospel of John, epistles of John (1–3) and Revelation.**
- 2. The First Epistle of John is not addressed to a single congregation but to a community of churches in Asia Minor. (Now Turkey).**

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 1. In this community of home churches, false teachings were growing. One such teaching was Docetism, leading to Gnosticism.**
- 2. Docetism taught that Jesus did not possess a physical form but merely appeared to exist, denying his death, burial and resurrection.**

GNOSTICISM.

Gnosticism (from Greek gnōsis, “knowledge”) represented a loose collection of philosophical-religious systems - rather than a unified movement. Central to Gnostic thought was metaphysical dualism—

The belief that spirit is inherently good while physical matter is inherently evil.

Lesson Aims

- 1. Summarize the gospel of Jesus using the terms *light* and *darkness* as used in 1 John.**
- 2. Understand the significance of confession and exercise it in obedience to the Lord.**
- 3. Celebrate Christ's pardon from sin by walking in the light and seeking fellowship with other believers.**

STUDY OUTLINE

- 1. True Fellowship (1 John 1:5–7)**
- 2. Necessary Confession (1 John 1:8–2:2)**
- 3. Obedient Walk (1 John 2:3–6)**

1ST JOHN 1:5, 6 NIV

5. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

6. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

1 JOHN 1:7-8 NIV

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

8. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 JOHN 1:9-10 NIV

- 9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**
- 10. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.**

Lesson Aims Review.

1. Light symbolizes moral purity, truth, and revelatory holiness.

Ref: *John 3:16-21 Men love darkness over light.*

Matthew 5:13-16 Salt and Light.

2. Confession benefits the Believer, as when faith is spoken, Faith is experiential in hope 1st, prior to testimonial.

QUESTIONS?

- 1. How do Gnostic ideas still subtly influence modern Christianity?**
- 2. What does it mean to “walk as Jesus walked” in contemporary life?**
- 3. Why is it important for Christians to be a Light?**



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1. Authentic Christianity is grounded in the incarnational reality of Jesus.**
- 2. Fellowship with God requires walking in truth, light, and obedience.**
- 3. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.**

PAUSE FOR THE CAUSE

- ***“Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible.***
- **2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers to be involved in hermeneutics: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”.**

1 JOHN 2: 1-2 NIV

- 1) My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.**

- 2) He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.**

1 JOHN 2:3-4 NIV

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands.

⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he, commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.

1 JOHN 2:5-6 NIV

⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:

⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

KEY TEXT TO REMEMBER

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8–9

Ref: Romans 6:22-24

QUESTIONS?

1. What role does “*faith in action*” play in our Christian walk?
2. In what ways are we dependent upon Jesus Christ, our advocate?

LIFE APPLICATION

- 1. Authentic Christianity is grounded in the historical and incarnational reality of Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Fellowship with God requires walking in truth, light, and obedience.**
- 3. Sound doctrine and ethical living are inseparable in the Christian life.**
- 4. Jesus Said: If you love me Keep my commandments.
(John 14:15).**

48 Commands and Teachings Of Jesus In the Gospels (NIV)

1. Repent - Matthew 4:17

"From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'"

2. Follow Me - Matthew 4:19

"'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.'"

3. Rejoice - Matthew 5:12

"Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

4. Let Your Light Shine - Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

5. Honor God's Law - Matthew 5:17-19

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore, anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

6. Be Reconciled - Matthew 5:24-25

"Leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother or sister; then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison."

7. Do Not Lust - Matthew 5:28-30

"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."

8. Keep Your Word - Matthew 5:37

"All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

9. Go the Second Mile - Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."

10. Love Your Enemies - Matthew 5:44

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,"

11. Be Perfect - Matthew 5:48

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

12. Practice Secret Disciplines (Giving, Praying, Fasting) - Matthew 6:1-18

[Due to the length, this passage outlines the importance of not doing your acts of righteousness before others to be seen by them, with specific instructions for giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting, each to be done in secret so that the Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.]

13. Lay Up Treasures in Heaven - Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

14. Seek God's Kingdom - Matthew 6:33

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

15. Judge Not - Matthew 7:1-2

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

16. Do Not Throw Pearls to Pigs - Matthew 7:6

"Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces."

17. Ask, Seek, Knock - Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

18. Do Unto Others - Matthew 7:12

"So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

19. Choose the Narrow Way - Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

20. Beware of False Prophets - Matthew 7:15

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."

21. Pray for Laborers - Matthew 9:38

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

22. Be Wise as Serpents - Matthew 10:16

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

23. Fear Not - Matthew 10:28

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

24. Hear God's Voice - Matthew 11:15

"Whoever has ears, let them hear."

25. Take My Yoke - Matthew 11:29

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

26. Honor Your Parents - Matthew 15:4

"For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.'"

27. Beware of Leaven - Matthew 16:6

"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

28. Deny Yourself - Matthew 16:24

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

29. Do Not Despise Little Ones - Matthew 18:10

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

30. Go to Offenders - Matthew 18:15

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."

31. Beware of Covetousness - Luke 12:15

"Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"

32. Forgive Offenders - Matthew 18:21-22

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'"

33. Honor Marriage - Matthew 19:6

"So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."

34. Be a Servant - Matthew 20:26-27

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—"

35. Be a House of Prayer - Matthew 21:13

"He said to them, 'It is written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

36. Ask in Faith - Matthew 21:21-22

"Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not

only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.'"

37. Bring in the Poor - Luke 14:12-14

"Then Jesus said to his host, 'When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'"

38. Render to Caesar - Matthew 22:19-21

"Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, 'Whose image is this? And whose inscription?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. Then he said to them, 'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.'"

39. Love the Lord - Matthew 22:37

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"

40. Love Your Neighbor - Matthew 22:39

"And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

41. Await My Return - Matthew 24:42-44

"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

42. Celebrate the Lord's Supper - Matthew 26:26-27

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you.'"

43. Watch and Pray - Matthew 26:41

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'"

44. Feed My Sheep - John 21:15-16

"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' Again, Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'"

45. Baptize My Disciples - Matthew 28:19

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

46. Teach Them to Obey My Commands - Matthew 28:20

"and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

47. Receive God's Power - Luke 24:49

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

48. Make Disciples - Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Reference: Darrell Stetler II. New Start Discipleship