

LESSON ONE

1 John Overview and 2 & 3 John

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of 1 John
“1 John at a Glance”

Oh, how those who claim to be Christians need to understand the messages of John’s three letters!

DAY ONE

God’s Word is truth and it cannot be comprehended merely by natural means. God’s truth is revealed by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-14). Therefore, whenever you study God’s Word, begin with prayer, asking God by His Spirit to open the eyes of your understanding and to lead you and guide you into truth.

1. We’ll begin this week’s lesson with an **overview** of 1 John. The purpose of the overview is to help you understand the context of the book and, thus, how the author achieves his purpose for writing.

If you have never done a Precept™ course before, we suggest you take time to read the chapters entitled “The Rule of Context—Context Rules!” and “Getting the Big Picture” in *How to Study Your Bible*. This will give you the big picture of 1 John and familiarize you with some of the terms we will use in this study.
2. Using the Observation Worksheets located in the Appendix, read 1 John 1:1-4 and circle *we*. What do you learn about “we”?

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Although the author's name is not mentioned in this book, it has been accepted since the early church fathers that the Apostle John is the author. John had been with Jesus—seen Him, touched Him. You can read more about this when you are directed to do commentary work.

3. Now read all of 1 John and mark each use of *write*, *written*, and *writing*. Then answer the following:
 - a. Why did John write what he did?

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b. What did he say he wrote about?

c. Who did he write to?

DAY TWO

1. Begin today in prayer, and then read 1 John again. Mark each mention of those John is writing to, the recipients. You might shade them orange. Notice the pronouns “you” and “your.”

Summarize below what you learn about them.

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2. As you observed what the author wrote and why and the facts about the recipients, did you notice any words or phrases that the author repeated? If so, list them below.

Well, Beloved, you've begun! There are hundreds of thousands around the world who would tell you that Precept Upon Precept is the best and most comprehensive study they've ever done. They would tell you that their lives have never been the same. Eventually these skills will become second nature! So friend, press on.

DAY THREE

1. Today you will read 1 John two times and mark the following key words, each in a distinctive way.
 - a. The first time you read 1 John, mark *sin* * and *know*.
 - b. The second time, mark *love* * and *abide*.

*Indicates words with marking suggestions on the back of this workbook.

2. On the next page, you'll find the chart "Key Words in 1 John." When you finish marking the key words, record on the chart the approximate number of times each word is used or repeated in each chapter. Also, note the total number of times each is used in the book. Don't stress about an exact count. The purpose of this chart is to see emphasis of the various subjects through repetition of key words.

1 JOHN AT A GLANCE

Book Theme

Author:

Date:

Key Words:

Purpose:

Historical Setting:

Chapter Themes

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

1 JOHN 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- WHAT** was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—
- 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—
 - 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 - 4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.
 - 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.
 - 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
 - 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.
 - 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 - 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.