

faith, hope, love



1 John 2:1-29
Inductive Discovery Lesson 17

Abiding Love Where do you live? Not the house where you keep your stuff or the city where you get your mail, but the inner self where your thoughts and affections dwell. *Never give your heart to this world*, John wrote, *for nothing it can offer will last*. With a long life and a wealth of experience behind him, John's message was profoundly simple: Abide in Christ and love one another.

In this second chapter, John talks about knowing God and what true fellowship with Him will produce. John reminds his readers that truly knowing God is shown in the way we live out our relationships with others. How we respond to the overwhelming need or the unkind word. How we navigate through the problems. How we rise to the challenge or bend to the task.

Every day—whether it be ordinary or unusual—is an opportunity to show the One we know to others. Jesus called it abiding love, like a branch on the vine (John 15). The vine nourishes and the branch flourishes. John never forgot that striking picture of intimate fellowship or the powerful promise that Jesus made. “Abide in Me and I will abide in you.” Some sixty years later, it was still the heartbeat of John's hope and the theme of his teaching.

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 be sure 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.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17** And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. **19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. **20** But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. **21** I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. **22** Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. **23** No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. **25** And this is the promise that He made to us—eternal life.

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. **27** But the anointing that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything—and is true and is no lie, just as it has taught you—abide in Him.

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming. **29** If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions**. *Do your best to follow John's train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

1 John 2:1-6

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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1 John 2:7-14

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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1 John 2:7-14 (continued)

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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1 John 2:15-25

Facts from the passage:

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1 John 2:26-29

Facts from the passage:

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Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“advocate” (vs. 1) _____

“propitiation” (vs.2) _____

“abide, abides” (vs.6,10,14,17,24,27-28) _____

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

1 John 2:1-6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

1 John 2:7-14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

1 John 2:15-25

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

1 John 2:26-29

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

_____ ?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.

Up close and personal

Now, little children, abide in Him,
so that when He appears, we may have confidence
and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 2:28 NAS



Memorize *God's Word*

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.



Meditate *on God's Word*

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

"Abide in Me, and I in you."

John 15:4

We were all made for a person and a place.
Jesus is the person. Heaven is the place.

Do I realize that my life is being examined by God, the Audience of One,
and that the only appraisal of my life that will ultimately matter is His?

- Randy Alcorn -

Heaven

[illegible]

