

1 John 3:1-24
Inductive Discovery Lesson18

Obedient Love How do you say "God is love" without using words? One loving action can say more than a hundred sermons. John was determined to help his readers understand that love and obedience go hand in hand. It was a lesson that Jesus lived out for His disciples every day, in countless ways, for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. On their last night together, Jesus brought the lesson home in an unforgettable way. Many years later, John recorded what happened that evening in vivid detail (John 13-17).

That night in the upper room, Jesus did more than pour water in a basin and wash His disciples' feet. He poured truth into their hearts. He showed these ordinary men the secret of how to take His extraordinary message of love and truth to a hurting world. John was paying attention. The truths Jesus spoke that night are echoed in every line of this letter. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." What kind of love? Love that abides and obeys. Love that will lay itself down for others. Love that speaks loud and clear even when it isn't using words.

1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we will be like Him, because we shall see Him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.

6 No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his

brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before Him; 20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.

- 23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us.
- 24 Whoever keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

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 3:1-3 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:
1 John 3:4-12 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

1 John 3:4-12 (continued) Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:
1 John 3:13-24 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

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.

"purifies himself" (vs. 3)		
" hate " (vs.13,15)		
"assure" (vs.19)		
"condemn" (vs.20,21)		
"confidence" (vs.21)		

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.

Lesson:	
Application:	
1 John 3:4-12 Lesson:	
Application:	7
1 John 3:13-24 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

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments, and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 3:21-22

→ 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 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 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 S examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith 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 put what you have learned into practice?				
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Something to Think About . . .

Lord,

I praise Thee continually for permission to approach Thy throne of grace, and to spread my wants and desires before Thee.

I am not worthy of Thy blessings and mercies, for I am far gone from perfect righteousness.

While I confess my guilt, help me to feel it deeply, with self-abhorrence and self-despair—and yet remember there is hope in Thee, and to see the Lamb that takes away sin.

Through Him, may I return to Thee,
Listen to Thee . . .
Trust in Thee . . .
Delight in Thy law . . .
Obey Thee . . .
and be upheld by Thee.

Adapted from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions

Message	Notes:
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