



How Do You Know? Leader Guide – June 21, 2020

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. 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. ⁷ Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them. ¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. 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. ¹⁴ I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. 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 lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. ¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:3-17 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

Have everyone share their best dad joke. Give a prize for the winner!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) John shares in this passage that we can be sure that we “know Jesus” if we keep His commands. Why is this the case? What commands do you need to begin to keep?

- Jesus described it this way in John 14:21 -> “Whoever has my commands and keeps them loves Me.”
- When we truly know Jesus, we have a new want to! Keeping His commands goes from being an obligation to an opportunity.
 - We no longer obey scripture because “we have to,” our heart has changed and causes us to “want to” do what God has set out for us.
- Ask your group members to dive deep into the second question – lead by example and share what commands you need to begin to keep out of opportunity and not obligation.

2) When translated literally, verse 5 reads – if anyone obeys His commands, the love of God is made complete in them. What is John saying in this verse? How have you seen this play true in your life?

- When we obey God's commands, our heart begins to be transformed – as in, our heart begins to look more like God's! That means we start to love like God loves, see people as He sees people, and desire the things He desires.
- Group leaders, share an example of how this has played true in your life.

3) John understands that obeying God can be really difficult at times – that's why he stresses that it's so important for us to remain in God, and ask Him to help us obey. In what ways do you struggle to remain in God? How can you seek to remain in Him and ask for Him to help you obey?

- Obeying God is definitely not always easy – but He promises to help us if we remain in Him
- Ways to remain in Him:
 - Get in the Word -> thechapelbr.com/bible-plan
 - Prayer -> Ask Him to help you obey! This is a prayer He will always answer
 - Seek Community -> being at your group is a great start!

4) John shares that when he “writes to us,” he's not writing a new command but an old one. In reality, it's the “renovated command” Jesus gives to us in John 13:34-35 -> Love others as I have loved you. How can you begin to obey this command? Who is God calling you to love?

- We all have people who are “tough to love” in our life. If we don't, then we might be that person for others!
- Who do you need to love in the way that Jesus loved you?
- The best place to start is by asking this question -> What does love require of me?

5) When we are truly following Jesus, our identity is secure in Him and not in the world. What parts of the world do you need to let go of?

- We can't fully follow Jesus if we are still embracing the things of the world that He died to end. In what areas of your life do you need to confess -> repent -> repeat?
- How can your group pray for/support you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1) Where do you need to begin obeying God's commands? Loving others? Confessing, repenting, repeating? How can your group pray for/support you?

2) What can you do this week to focus on remaining in Jesus so that you have the power to obey?