



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

1 John 2:1-6 Study Hints for Discussion

[*Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [*Class Preparation Guide*](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [*Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout*](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Why do you think John called his readers “My little children”?

John felt a tender loving care for all Christians, especially those that he led to faith in Jesus Christ, for in some sense he was and remained their “father in the faith”—having led them to faith in Jesus Christ and faith in their Father in heaven. Little children probably meant that they were new Christians, or as Christians they needed to be reminded of some basic teachings of what it meant to be a Christian, call yourself a Christian, and live as a Christian. He wanted them to know that his teachings were the teachings of a father who loved them and who wanted the best for them rather than the teachings of an uncaring lecturer just doing his duty as a teacher. We need to read John as the teachings of a beloved father who loves us, and who represents our Lord and Savior and our Father in heaven who also love us and want the best for us as followers of Jesus Christ.

2. What reason did John give for writing them?

He wrote to teach them and us how to live so that we may not sin. Christians do not need to sin, but sometimes we do sin. He wrote to teach Christians how to live without practicing sin and to keep us from walking in darkness.

3. If anyone sins, what good news did John give his readers?

If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Jesus is our defense attorney as in a court of law. He is the perfect defense attorney or counselor. He will plead our cause and His Father will not condemn us.

4. What did John say was necessary for Jesus to be “the atoning sacrifice”?

Jesus must be righteous as our defense attorney, as He pleads our cause. He will be truthful and honest before His Father, who will be our Judge. Jesus is righteous because Jesus never sinned. Jesus always did what His Father wanted Him to do, and He never committed a sin of commission or omission. With a loving and willing heart and mind, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King and Savior, came into our world to die on the cross as our perfect substitute so His death became a perfect sacrifice in our behalf that He and His Father accepted in place of the eternal death that we deserve because of our lawlessness and rebellion in against them in the Kingdom of God. Because Jesus died in our place and is our defense attorney, His Father will not condemn us if we sin.

5. How can we be sure that we know Jesus?

We can be sure we know Jesus if we obey Jesus’ commandments, but we will not obey Jesus perfectly all the time until we go to heaven or He comes again. Obeying Jesus perfectly will be one of our goals in life because we love Him. We will obey Jesus’ commandments because Jesus, the Truth, dwells in us and His love dwells in us. Unhappily, we will sometimes not do the truthful and loving thing, but we will do “our own thing,” and when we do our own thing instead of obey Jesus’ commands, we sin.

Thinking Further for Extra Credit Your Discussion Notes

1. For whom is Jesus “the atoning sacrifice” for sins?

2. Who did John call a liar?

3. How did John describe a liar? What does that make you think about liars?

4. What did John say about the person who obeys Jesus' word?

5. How should we live if we say we "abide in him"?

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and lgp@theiblf.com.