



# International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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## 1 John 2:7-14 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. What do you think the commandments were that John referred to?

OLD: Matthew 22:37-40 — “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

NEW: John 13:34-35 — “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### 2. If a believer in Jesus says, “I am in the light,” what do you think he means?

We read in John 8:12, “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’” Whoever says “I am in the light” has the light of life (Jesus) and is walking in the light (the truth and the truth that is Jesus). In

Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.” If a believer in Jesus is in the light, it can be seen.

### **3. What can keep a believer in Jesus from stumbling?**

Loving your fellow believers and living in the light can keep a believer in Jesus from stumbling.

### **4. What can cause stumbling?**

Hating a fellow believer and walking in darkness, which has brought on spiritual blindness.

### **5. What did John say about young people who were believers in Jesus?**

Young people (those growing in spiritual maturity as faithful followers of Jesus) have conquered the evil one, are strong, the word of God abides in them, and they have overcome the evil one.

## **Thinking Further for Extra Credit Your Discussion Notes**

1. Do you think a nonbeliever in God and Jesus can obey the old and new commandments? Give a reason for your answer.

2. How is the true light already shining?

3. Does it appear to you that the darkness is passing away? Give a reason for your answer.

4. What can happen to a nation when most of its citizens or subjects turn away from believing in God and following Jesus' commandments?

5. Why did John say he was writing to little children? Who do you think he meant by "little children?" Why would what he wrote be important to them?