



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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1 John 3:11-17 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. From the beginning, what lesson did John teach the followers of Jesus? Does this lesson still apply to Christians today?

He taught them from the beginning that they should love one another. Today, every follower of Jesus Christ should choose to love their brothers and sisters in the family of God. This is commanded partly because it is not always an easy choice to love some people, or to think, pray, and seek to do what is wise and best for some people.

2. What two reasons did John give for Cain murdering his brother Abel? Can you think of one

or more additional possible reasons or motivations?

John said that Cain was from the evil one and his deeds were evil. Cain was probably jealous of Abel because Abel did righteous deeds and doing what is right brings most people happiness. He could have been jealous that Abel made God happy by obeying God. Doing evil will never bring anyone lasting happiness or true joy or a blessing from God.

3. What distinguished Abel from his brother Cain?

Unlike Cain, Abel's deeds were righteous. He did what was right.

4. From these verses, how can a follower of Jesus Christ know that they have passed from death to life and have eternal life?

The world hates followers of Jesus Christ, and worldly people will often express in some way their dislike for those who obey Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The followers of Jesus Christ love one another. They trust in Jesus Christ (Eternal Life) who has promised to abide in them.

5. How did Jesus demonstrate His love and teach us what love does?

Jesus came into the world and sacrificially suffered and died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, He laid

down his life for us. Through Jesus, we learn what love is and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Thinking Further for Extra Credit

Your Discussion Notes

1. Compare and discuss the meanings of 1 John 3:12, 1 John 2:29, 1 John 3:7.
2. Why do you think John warned those in the church to not be like Cain? In what ways might someone act like Cain in a church? What do you think motivates some people in the church to act like Cain? What are the results?
3. How might Jesus' followers especially teach new and young Christians the important truth that they must not be astonished that the world hates them? Why is this fact extremely important for Christians to remember today?
4. How do we know love? How should our knowledge of love influence our behavior? Can you give some examples from the Bible and from today of how some people who know the meaning of love behave?
5. What truths do you find in 1 John 3:17 and in 2 Thessalonians 3:10? How might you apply these truths when you see a brother or sister in your church in need? How might church leaders apply these truths?