



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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1 John 4:13-21 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. How does a follower of Jesus know that God is living within them?

John mentions other ways too, but in these verses, he emphasized that we know God is living within us because “he has given us of his Spirit.” His Spirit testifies to our spirit that we are children of God, and the children of God develop and show forth “the spirit or the attitude or the love” of God that the Holy Spirit within them gives them. We become “as Jesus is.”

2. What did John testify to? How could he testify to this truth?

John testified “that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.” He could testify to this truth because he had seen Jesus, the Word made flesh that dwelt among the disciples when Jesus ministered with them.

3. Who does God abide (remain) in?

“God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God.”

4. How did John describe God and how does a believer abide in God?

John said, “God is love.” John said, “those who abide in love abide in God.”

5. How are the followers of Jesus to be “in this world”?

John wrote, “as he [Jesus] is, so are we in this world.” We become more loving like God as we mature as Christians.

Thinking Further for Extra Credit Your Discussion Notes

1. How can a follower of Jesus Christ have boldness on the day of judgment?
2. Why can a follower of Jesus Christ also have boldness in prayer?
3. Why is there no fear in love?
4. Which came first: our love for God or God’s love for us? How do you know? What difference does this make to you?
5. What kind of person says they love God while hating their fellow believers in Jesus Christ? What must those who love God do?