

1 John choral reading

CHARACTERS: John (48 lines), Leader 2 (49), All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes/page

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 John 1-5 (HCSB)

Chapter 1 – 2a

JOHN: What was from the beginning,
 LEADER 2: what we have heard,
 ALL: what we have seen with our eyes,
 JOHN: what we have observed
 LEADER 2: and have touched with our hands,
 ALL: concerning the Word of life—
 JOHN: that life was revealed and we have seen it
 ALL: and we testify and declare to you
 LEADER 2: the eternal life that was with the Father
 ALL: and was revealed to us—
 JOHN: what we have seen and heard we also declare to you,
 LEADER 2: so that you may have fellowship along with us.
 ALL: Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
 A & LEADER 2: We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Fellowship with God

JOHN: Now this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you:
 ALL: God is light, and there is absolutely no darkness in Him.
 LEADER 2: If we say,
 ALL: We have fellowship with Him
 LEADER 2: yet we walk in darkness, we are lying
 ALL: and are not practicing the truth.
 A; But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light,
 ALL: we have fellowship with one another,
 JOHN: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 LEADER 2: If we say,
 ALL: We have no sin.
 LEADER 2: we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 JOHN: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins
 ALL: and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 LEADER 2: If we say,
 ALL: We don't have any sin.
 LEADER 2: we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
 JOHN: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father
 ALL: —Jesus Christ the Righteous One.

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JOHN: He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, a

ALL: and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

Chapter 2 - God's Commands

JOHN: This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him:

ALL: by keeping His commands.

LEADER 2: The one who says,

ALL: I have come to know Him.

LEADER 2: yet doesn't keep His commands, is a liar,

ALL: and the truth is not in him.

JOHN: But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected.

LEADER 2: This is how we know we are in Him:

ALL: The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

JOHN: The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.

LEADER 2: The one who says he is in the light but hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

ALL: The one who loves his brother remains in the light,

LEADER 2: and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

ALL: But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness,

JOHN: He walks in the darkness, and doesn't know where he's going,

ALL: because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

LEADER 2: Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world.

ALL: If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.

JOHN: For everything that belongs to the world—

ALL: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's lifestyle—

JOHN: is not from the Father, but is from the world.

LEADER 2: And the world with its lust is passing away,

ALL: but the one who does God's will remains forever.

JOHN: No lie comes from the truth.

ALL: Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Messiah?

LEADER 2: No one who denies the Son can have the Father;

ALL: he who confesses the Son has the Father as well.

JOHN: This is the promise that He Himself made to us:

ALL: eternal life.

LEADER 2: Remain in Jesus, so that when He appears we may have boldness

ALL: and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Chapter 3

JOHN: Look at how great a love the Father has given us

ALL: that we should be called God's children.

LEADER 2: And we are!

ALL: The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know Him.

JOHN: Dear friends, we are God's children now,

ALL: and what we will be has not yet been revealed.

LEADER 2: We know that when He appears, we will be like Him

ALL: because we will see Him as He is.

JOHN: And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

ALL: Everyone who commits sin also breaks the law because sin is the breaking of law.

LEADER 2: Jesus was revealed so that He might take away sins,

ALL: and there is no sin in Him.

JOHN: Everyone who remains in Him does not sin;

ALL: everyone who sins has not seen Him or known Him.

LEADER 2: The Son of God was revealed for this purpose:

ALL: to destroy the Devil's works.

JOHN: Whoever does not do what is right is not of God,

ALL: especially the one who does not love his brother.

LEADER 2: This is the message you have heard from the beginning:

ALL: We should love one another,

JOHN: unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.

LEADER 2: Why did he murder him?

JOHN: Because his works were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

ALL: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers.

JOHN: The one who does not love remains in death.

LEADER 2: Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer,

ALL: and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

JOHN: This is how we have come to know love:

ALL: Jesus laid down His life for us.

LEADER 2: We should also lay down our lives for our brothers.

ALL: If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need

LEADER 2: but closes his eyes to his need—

ALL: how can God's love reside in him?

JOHN: Little children, we must not love with word or speech,

ALL: but with truth and action.

LEADER 2: This is how we will know we belong to the truth and will convince our conscience in His presence,

ALL: even if our conscience condemns us,

JOHN: that God is greater than our conscience,

ALL: and He knows all things.

LEADER 2: Dear friends, if our conscience doesn't condemn us, we have confidence before God

ALL: and can receive whatever we ask from Him

JOHN: because we keep His commands and do what is pleasing in His sight.

ALL: Now this is His command:

LEADER 2: that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ,

ALL: and love one another as He commanded us.

JOHN: The one who keeps His commands remains in Him, and He in him.

ALL: And the way we know that He remains in us is from the Spirit He has given us.

The Spirit of God and Love (chapter 4)

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JOHN: This is how you know the Spirit of God:

ALL: Every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

LEADER 2: You are from God, little children, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ALL: We are from God.

JOHN: Dear friends, let us love one another,

ALL: because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

LEADER 2: The one who does not love does not know God,

ALL: because God is love.

JOHN: God's love was revealed among us in this way

ALL: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

LEADER 2: Love consists in this: not that we loved God,

ALL: but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

JOHN: Dear friends, if God loved us in this way,

ALL: we also must love one another.

LEADER 2: No one has ever seen God.

ALL: If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is perfected in us.

JOHN: This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us:

ALL: He has given assurance to us from His Spirit.

LEADER 2: And we have seen and we testify that the Father has sent His Son as the world's Savior.

ALL: Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God—

JOHN: God remains in him and he in God.

ALL: We have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.

LEADER 2: God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God,

ALL: and God remains in him.

JOHN: In this, love is perfected with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment,

ALL: for we are as He is in this world.

LEADER 2: There is no fear in love;

ALL: instead, perfect love drives out fear,

JOHN: because fear involves punishment.

ALL: So the one who fears has not reached perfection in love.

LEADER 2: We love because He first loved us.

Keeping God's Commands

JOHN: If anyone says,

ALL: I love God.

JOHN: yet hates his brother, he is a liar.

LEADER 2: For the person who does not love his brother he has seen

ALL: cannot love the God he has not seen.

LEADER 2: And we have this command from Him:

ALL: The one who loves God must also love his brother.

Chapter 5

JOHN: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah has been born of God,

ALL: and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of Him.

LEADER 2: This is how we know that we love God's children

ALL: when we love God and obey His commands.

JOHN: For this is what love for God is:

ALL: to keep His commands.

LEADER 2: Now His commands are not a burden,

ALL: because whatever has been born of God conquers the world.

JOHN: This is the victory that has conquered the world:

ALL: our faith.

LEADER 2: And who is the one who conquers the world?

ALL: The one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God!

JOHN: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

ALL: The one who has the Son has life.

LEADER 2: The one who doesn't have the Son of God

ALL: does not have life.

JOHN: I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,

ALL: so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Effective Prayer

JOHN: Now this is the confidence we have before Him:

ALL: Whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

LEADER 2: And if we know that He hears whatever we ask,

ALL: we know that we have what we have asked Him for.

JOHN: We know that we are of God,

ALL: and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.

LEADER 2: And we know that the Son of God has come

ALL: and has given us understanding so that we may know the true One.

JOHN: We are in the true One—

ALL: that is, in His Son Jesus Christ.

LEADER 2: He is the true God and eternal life.

ALL: Little children, guard yourselves from idols.