

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 15 minutes

1. How would you use the words of 2:1-2 to comfort a Christian friend who is worried about their sin and guilt?
2. Look at your answer above; how much do you need to hear the same response?
3. Do you identify more with the fearful (who thinks their sin disqualifies them from knowing God) or the complacent (who thinks forgiveness is a license to live however they want)? How can this scripture challenge you in your weakness?
4. Martin Luther once said: *"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me."* What in this study is running after you and laying hold of your heart?

Psalm 65:1-4

¹*Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.*

²*O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.*

³*When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.*

⁴*Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!*

*We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!*

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Lord, continue to change my heart. Give me an ever-deepening desire to live in the way you want; the way that brings you glory.

Jesus Christ Our Advocate

1 John 2:1-6

Question: What should a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ do about sin?

1. ***Sin... Stop it! Don't do it!***
2. ***Confess it. When you sin... Thank God for Jesus!***
3. ***Forsake it! Jesus is the only anecdote for sin.***

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of April 30, 2017

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. What has been your experience with personality tests or aptitude tests? What did they reveal about you?
2. If you made a test for people to determine how well they know God, what would it look like? How do you think you'd do?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read 1 John 2:1-2

1. According to verse 1, why does John write this letter? How does his reasoning sound when contrasted with 1:8,10?
2. What encouragement does John give us for when we sin?

TERMS: Propitiation (aka "atoning sacrifice") is the sacrifice that satisfies God's wrath against sinners. The cross was God's loving plan to be just and to forgive our sins (1 John 1:9; Romans 3:21-26).

3. Why do you think John adds "not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world"? How should this shape our Christian lives?

Read 1 John 2:3-6

4. What test does John give us for those who say, "I know God"? What is John's logic behind this test?
5. Look at verse 5, what does it mean for God's love to be perfected in us?
6. Since nobody obeys God perfectly (compare 1:8 and 2:4), how can we be sure that our faith is genuine?
7. What does it look like today to "walk in the same way in which [Jesus] walked"?