

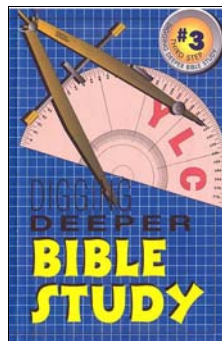


DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY -LEADER'S GUIDE-

DDBS: The Inductive Approach

A inductive Bible study...

...is the process by which students infer principles and develop action-based statements from entire books of the book, discussing the how's and why's behind the passages.



The YLC's **Digging Deeper Bible Study** series is part of our Comprehensive Student Curriculum (CSC), an overall teaching plan designed to engage students in the discipline of personal Bible study incrementally. While the CSC is structured around the physical and mental developmental process of a young person, it rests on a fundamental tenant: the ability to understand the Bible for yourself is the greatest tool a young person can possess. Consequently, biblical literacy is the constant goal.

A **Digging Deeper Bible Study** moves young people from knowing facts and discovering ideas to *developing principles* — timeless truths by which they can live! It's here they start taking the answers they found (didactic) and the insight they discovered (deductive) and *putting God's instructions into action-based values* (inductive). As the name suggests, they do more than observe information and identify insight; they *infer the meaning, discussing the how's and why's behind the passage*. This takes time and tools, so a Bible dictionary, concordance, and handy commentary, as well as extended time in the sessions, proves very beneficial. A **Digging Deeper Bible Study** works best when you journey with your students, showing them how to draw out God's truth by modeling the habit of inductive study week after week.

Weekly Student Checklist::

- Did they **read** the focus passage?
- Did they **complete** the workbook lesson?
- Did they **utilize** other resources?
- Are they prepared to **share** from their weekly study?
- Are they **taking notes** during the session regarding other points of knowledge shared by others?

Prepare For Intensity!

A **Digging Deeper Bible Study** is more than casual conversation; it is intense work and consistent accountability. Consider this your marine-style discussion. Yes, it's fluid, and yes, it's two-way. But it is also engaging and abstract, and your job as the facilitator is to see that every student comes to face to face with biblical truth each week. Using your students' answers to the workbook questions as the main stimulus during the lesson, you'll want to stretch and challenge their thoughts, pushing them towards the most biblical viewpoint possible. In one sense, you are actually carrying on a regular conversation with your students collectively (preferably a small group of them), weaving in the insights, Scripture, and sto-

ries that will drive home the main point of the lesson. Yet, in a **Digging Deeper Bible Study**, you go beyond what they think it *means* to find out what they will *do* with God's truth.

The primary key to leading an effective **Digging Deeper Bible Study** is found in this simple statement: *Though you may facilitate conversationally, you must prepare intentionally!* And the best way to do that as a facilitator is to journey with your students through the workbook. If you'll see yourself as a partner and not a commander, you'll dramatically enhance your role as the facilitator. Here are some tips to help you with your new role as a **Digging Deeper Bible Study** facilitator.

Tips for Facilitating a Digging Deeper Bible Study

1. **Stick to firm times.** You may choose to be real loose on what goes on within the time frame, but adhere to the time frame itself. While you want to include weekly time for chatting, reviewing, sharing, and discussing, it is equally important to avoid getting bogged down by non-essentials (i.e., anything that takes you away from your desired destination instead of closer to it). Time frames serve as road signs — they help guide you to your overall destination. Develop an overall scheme to your time together, and follow it! This includes starting on time and ending on time.
2. **Set clear expectations.** Because a Digging Deeper Bible Study relies heavily upon the involvement and contribution of students, it is imperative all involved agree to a basic set of expectations. You'll find facilitating discussion much easier in an environment of mutual agreement than one in which there is division and tension. Consider these requirements as a good place to start:

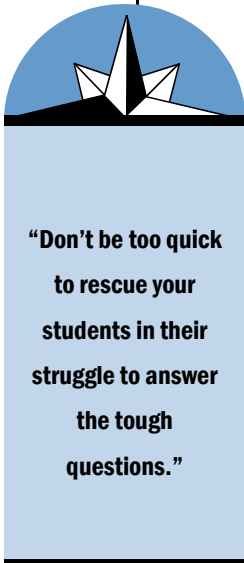
- *Joining is voluntary.* No one has to be in the group/class. We are all here because we want to be. Settle this first!
 - *Attendance is crucial.* Because sharing is a large part of the class, being here is important.
 - *Participation is essential.* Whether it's reading the weekly passage, completing the workbook, memorizing verses, or completing various assignments, students who take an active part will receive the greatest benefit.
3. **Develop "no fail" transitions.** Moving from one question/issue/learning point to the next one is difficult, and this is where most leaders drop the ball. Suggestion: Have your transitions down pat (i.e., memorized!). Some groups do well with the same transition each week; others adapt to variety. Here are some ideas from both sides of the fence:
 - Take 3 minutes and read your focus passage silently. The quietness will send a message that something different is underway.
 - Pass around a weekly "symbol" that signals

it's time for people to share about their journey with Christ that week. When the symbol is brought forth and given to a student (a fresh loaf or piece of bread, a candle, etc.), it signals a change/transition.

- Prepare and pass out a weekly quiz or review sheet.
 - Have a short and casual share time about what they hope to learn or have learned.
 - Pray around the circle/room in "popcorn" style, allowing members only one word prayers.
4. **Target one or two main elements and go after them.** Concentrate on these during your preparation, praying for activity and sensitivity. Forget a huge outline; be content to get across your main idea.

	6th Grade	→	12th Grade
	Didactic		Deductive Inductive
Concentrate on:	Concrete facts		Solid insight Abstract principles
Teachers help:	Inform		Identify Infer
Students should:	Know		Discover Develop
Lessons should be:	Visual		Visual/Conceptual Conceptual
Start with:	Bible topics		Bible passages Bible books

5. **Ask the tough questions.** Whether you're checking on their assignment, looking for insight, or investigating their willingness to apply the passage, don't be too quick to rescue your students in their struggle to answer. It's the tough questions, wrapped in a loving personal touch, that sends the message of intentionality and seriousness about the Bible study.
6. **Review constantly.** Spend time each week reviewing the main points you've been discussing. And by all means let your final session be a thorough review filled with applicational assignments. Reviewing is how you help them store the treasures they've unearthed.



“Don't be too quick to rescue your students in their struggle to answer the tough questions.”

A Digging Deeper Bible Study in 1 John



The Fellowship Factor

*Living Life from
the Inside Out*



All Rights Reserved. Copyright © 2003 Youth Leader Connection.

Additional copies may be ordered by calling Youth Leader Connection toll free at 877-595-4YLC, or by visiting our Web site at www.youthleader.org.

by Todd Stiles

**For the companion set of six audio teaching tapes to this series,
or for the complete and reproducible workbook and all six mes-
sages on CD-Rom, call 877-595-4YLC or visit our Web site:
www.youthleader.org.**

All Rights Reserved. Copyright © 2001 Youth Leader Connection.

Unless otherwise identified, all Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission from Youth Leader Connection.

Additional copies may be ordered by calling Youth Leader Connection toll free at 877-595-4YLC, or by visiting our Web site at www.youthleader.org.

John records Nicodemus' meeting with Jesus in his gospel (John 3). Turn there and read verses 1-21. List any common ideas or words you find in their conversation with ideas John mentions here in these verses.

Compare 5:12 with 5:4. What phrases are synonymous?

In our last session we saw how God's love increases our confidence. Read 5:13-21. What key word(s) would carry the idea of increased confidence?

According to 5:13-21, what are the benefits to this sense of increased confidence?

Essentially . . .

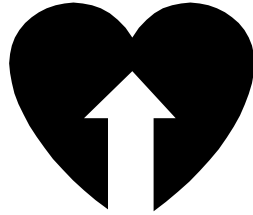
. . . life begins to make sense when we approach it from the inside out. How is that done? You've got to get to the core issue – **Jesus** – and believe in Him. Once that occurs and His seed is in you, it's a matter of **fellowshipping** with Him every day by being *open and honest with Him about your sin*. Don't worry – His love for you will only allow Him to do what's best for you, so don't be afraid. As you fellowship with Him, your life begins to show outward signs of genuine change: **obedience** and **love** start growing, your joy deepens, and your confidence increases. And why? All because you're making the most of the **fellowship factor, living life from the inside out!**

Table of Contents

The Fellowship Factor (1:1-4)	4
Honest To God (1:5-10)	8
Is There Enough Evidence To Convict? (2:1-11)	12
Duct Tape Spirituality (3:1-24)	16
The Rock and the Ripples (4:7-21)	20
Living Life From the Inside Out (5:1-12)	24

The Fellowship Factor

John was known as the “beloved disciple,” and it shows in several of his other letters. Read John 21:7 and 20 – who is the disciple referred to here as the “one Jesus loved?” Now read II John 1 and 5 – what common theme do you see in both verses? Understanding this, it is no wonder John talks a great deal about *being with Jesus* here in these first few verses of chapter 1.



Before you begin, read I John 1:1-4.

Study Questions:

In 1:1, who is John talking about? What makes you say that?

List the various senses John mentions in 1:1. What is the point of mentioning these different “proofs?”

1:2 seems to be a break in John’s thought, a parenthetical phrase describing Jesus to a greater degree? Why do you think he put this in?

Compare 1:1-2 with another of John’s written thoughts – John 1:14. What common phrases, ideas, or themes do you find in both passages? What was John trying to get across about Jesus?

According to 5:1 and 5:5, what is it that we must believe about Christ?

Look up John 1:1. What phrase in this verse is similar to the phrases in 5:1 and 5?

5:2 mentions the two primary traits of believers again. Write them in John’s words.

Based on 5:4-5, those who have been born of God are also called what? (This word is mentioned twice.)

What is it that they have overcome?

Look back at I John 2:15 What common ideas link 2:15-17 and 5:4-5?

According to 5:11-12 . . .

. . . who gives eternal life?

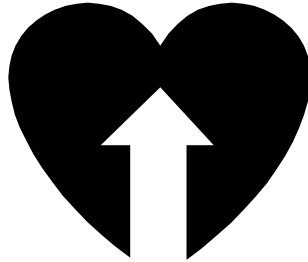
. . . where is this eternal life?

. . . what constitutes having life?

Read back through these verses and list the various names John uses to describe Jesus.

Living Life From the Inside Out

Peel away the skin of an apple and what do you have? A core. And while you don't eat the core, and rarely see it, without it you wouldn't have a tasty apple. That's how it is with Christianity – the core is Jesus. And while *what* we do (love and obey) are the primary ways we spot a Christian, the real core is *who*: Jesus! In I John 5, John brings us back to the core issue of life, and what it means to belong to God. It's all about Jesus – the one who loved us, and the one we love.



Read I John 5:1-12

Study Questions:

Once again, write out any key words you find in these verses that you found in earlier passages. Remember – these words show John's central point: fellowship with Jesus is the major factor in life.

Think about these key words, then ask yourself: How are these words connected to the idea of living life from the *inside* out? How does fellowship help that process? Summarize your thoughts in just a few sentences.

Why do you think John was stressing the point that Jesus was a real person they had seen, heard, and touched?

According to 1:3 . . .

. . . they were proclaiming what they had “seen and heard,” which, according to 1:1-2, was who?

. . . what is the basis for fellowship with others?

. . . what word is used to emphasize John's point that his fellowship with them was based on his fellowship with the Father and the Son? Why does he add such emphasis?

In a nutshell, 1:1-3 can be summed up by saying **fellowship with Jesus is where it all begins**. In light of that statement . . .

. . . define fellowship. Take a moment and check out a Bible dictionary, or use a concordance and cross-reference other verses that contain the word *fellowship*. Write out your discovery.

. . . what is a requirement for fellowship with Jesus? (Hint: Look at another of John's former writings – John 1:12 – for what one must do to call God their Father.)

. . . evaluate your fellowship with Jesus. Is a relationship with Christ the priority of your life? How does this truth show up in your relationships, time, finances, etc? List at least three ways.

. . . examine your friendships. John says that his outward relationships were based on his upward fellowship. Are yours? What does that statement mean?

After John makes a clear case for starting and maintaining fellowship with Jesus, he explains one of the benefits of that lifestyle in 1:4. What is one result of fellowship?

According to 4:19-20 . . .

. . . what motivates us to love God?

. . . what motivates us to love others?

. . . which is easier – loving someone we can see or loving someone we can't see?

. . . Why does John make this point about loving those we see first?

Based on our focus passage, what is the key to loving others?

Essentially . . .

. . . God's love for us should be a central theme of our fellowship time (the rock). When it is, our fear goes away, our courage increases, and we find that loving others becomes more natural (the ripples). Truly, we can't give love till we receive love – God's love! Have you taken the time to drop His "love rock" into the pond of your life today?

In 4:16, John emphasizes God's love for us. How does he do this?

Why do you think he goes to such length to emphasize this?

4:16-19 states that when God's love is "perfected" in us (or *completed* in us), we have less of something and more of something else. Name these opposites.

How could these contrasting ideas evidence themselves in your relationship with God? Think of at least two.

Now think about how fear would show itself in your fellowship with God. Would it make you tend to hide? Cover up? Fear takes us away from *walking in the light*, which is the key element in fellowship (remember lesson 2?). However, when we understand the nature of God's love, our confidence increases and we're not afraid to be honest with God. Consequently, our fellowship improves. Take a moment and reflect on God's love, then jot down the overriding fear it is gradually casting out of your life.

John doesn't use the word *happiness*. Instead, he uses *joy*. How do these differ from one another? Which characterizes your life mostly?

Since inner joy is deepened by upward fellowship (1:4), what are some ways you can tell your fellowship with God is "on target?"

Turn to the last chapter of John's epistle and read 5:13. According to this verse, what is another benefit of fellowship?

Remember John's nickname – "beloved disciple?" Take a moment and reflect upon the concepts of **fellowship** and **love**. Why do you think John connects these two so strongly? What common elements do you see in both of them?

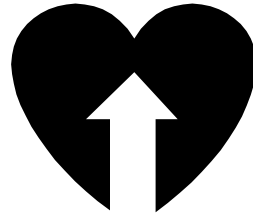
Scan through the remainder of John's letter this week and look for other references to the concept of fellowship. This is a consistent theme in John's writing, so it will play a predominant part in our study of the book. List the other references that point to the value of fellowship.

Essentially . . .

. . .fellowshipping with Jesus is the one factor in life that gives us deeper joy and confidence and a stronger ability to get along with others. Are you making fellowship with Jesus a major factor in your daily life?

Honest To God!

John leaves no room for doubt – fellowshiping with Jesus is the main factor that makes life work. But a question remains – what does one do to make the most of their fellowship time? What does the fellowship factor look like in street clothes? John addresses this issue in the remaining verses of chapter 1.



Read I John 1:5-10.

Study Questions:

1:5 describes God in what way? Why do you think John felt it important to establish this during his discussion on fellowship?

To some extent, fellowship contains the idea of *a common bond*. According to 1:5-7 . . .

. . . what is the common bond between a believer and God during fellowship?

. . . to what do *darkness* and *light* refer?

. . . what is the result of walking in darkness? Walking in the light?

. . . what common traits do you see between the result of *walking in the light* in verse 7 and the point John makes earlier in 1:3?

According to 4:9-10, how did God show his love for us? Go back and read 3:18. Connect these two verses.

Based on 4:10, who initiated the love affair between God and man? What verses in Romans 5 also give this same idea?

Stop and consider His love. Did you deserve it? Can you ever repay it? Will it ever end? How can you best show God your gratefulness for His love? In what ways can God's love be the "rock" that drops in your life each day and ripples out to all those you meet? In one sentence, write how you will maximize God's love for you?

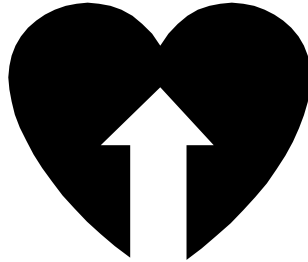
Based on our verses, what words or phrases are used to describe the nature of God's love? List the qualities of God's love.

Here's a challenge – based on what you've read about love in these last two chapters, write your own definition of love from a biblical perspective.

How does your definition differ from how our culture defines love?

The Rock and the Ripples

Ever thrown a rock in the water and then watched the ripples extend for several yards? It's amazing how sometimes even a little pebble can create a ripple well beyond its initial place of impact. So it is with God's love – it is the rock that impacts our life. In these verses John delves further into the second of the two traits, showing even more clearly why loving God and fellowshiping with him is so important for those who wish to obey God and love others.



Read I John 4:7-21

Study Questions:

What words in this passage are also common in the other passages we've already studied? Write down these key words. Do any of them pertain to the theme of fellowship? If so, how?

How many phrases in these verses tell us about God's love for us?

How many phrases in these verses tell us to love another?

Read 1:8-10. According to these verses. . .

. . . what does Christ's blood do for us? Scan through Psalm 51. What other word does David use to describe this same term?

. . . what two character traits are ascribed to Christ? Why are these important to forgiveness?

. . . what does forgiveness hinge upon? Look up *confession* and write out the biblical definition. Does this definition characterize your confession, or do you lean more towards a "drive through" version of 'fessing up – the "quick-cuz-I-gotta-go" routine? Are you more quick to confess because you got caught and think you're in trouble than when you simply are convicted inwardly?

...when we deny God's exposing light, what is *not* in us? What does this refer to? What word in 1:8 would be referring to the same thing?

There are five "*ifs*" in 1:5-10. Summarize each of them, then place either a negative (-) or a positive (+) sign by each one indicting its given slant and tone. For instance, verse 6 says that *if* we say we have fellowship when we really don't, we are lying. That's definitely a negative (-).

Analyze your negatives and positives. Now try and summarize them with key words, such as *deceit* for the negatives and *honesty* for the positives. Make a list of various key words you could use to show the difference in these two lifestyles.

Based on 1:5-10, what would you say is a key ingredient in a productive fellowship time with God? (Hint: Check out words like *lie*, *deceiving*, *confess*, and *liar* for a clue.)

Hopefully, you've discovered that **honesty** is a key ingredient for genuine fellowship with God. In fact, that is exactly what *walking in the light* means: *to be open and honest with God about my sin*. Unfortunately, deceit tragically disarms our ability to fellowship. Which trait characterizes your time with God – honesty or deceit? Are you walking in the light?

Read Genesis 3:1-24. Which approach did Adam and Eve take in dealing with their sin? (Write out the phrases you find in this passage to indicate this.)

According to 3: 16-18, loving others involves a lot more than words. List the various characteristics of biblical love as found in these verses.

In a nutshell, what one word would you use to describe biblical love?

Look back at 3:1-3. What is the predominant theme in these verses? How would you connect 3:1-3 with 3:16?

It would be hard to **obey God consistently** and **love people sacrificially** if you didn't already have the seed of God and a proper view of His love in your heart, wouldn't it? In fact, it would be impossible! Oh, you could do it temporarily. But over a lifetime, you couldn't make yourself "practice righteousness" and "love your brother" by sheer self-motivation or mere good works. It takes more than spiritual duct tape to give you the genuine traits of a Christian – it takes God's seed planted within you, what I call heavenly genetics. Basically, obeying God and loving others is an inside job!

Now go back and read 3:1-3 and 3:9 – it becomes clearer now why it is important to have God's seed. How has God's seed given you the ability to obey and love in ways you never would have thought possible? Write at least two.

Essentially . . .

. . . those who fellowship with God can't help but obey and love. Why? Because God's seed has taken root inside and is sprouting. The result? Genuine fruit grown by God, not artificial produce duct-taped by man.

3:10 contrasts two types of children. Who are they, and what separates them from one another?

The phrases “in Him” or “of God” appear several times between verses 4 and 10, and they both contain the idea that we are *from* or *out of* God. This gives the idea that we have done more than attach ourselves to the outside of a higher being. Instead, it clearly paints the picture of a new birth.

Go back and read 3:9 again. What word seems to give the same idea of an inner birth?

Think about *His seed* for a moment – when was it planted in you? How does it grow?

The phrase “practice righteousness” in 3:10 may mean an overall life-style of obedience, or it may actually refer to a specific commandment in 3:11 (since *for* is a connecting word between the two verses). What is that command?

According to 3:12, who is an example of someone who didn’t love his brother?

What phrase in 3:12 indicates Cain really fought with jealousy?

Now read Psalm 51. What attitude did David take in dealing with his sin? What phrases and words indicate David was *walking in the light*?

Think about this statement: “*It’s not the fact of my sin, but my attitude towards it, that affects my fellowship with God.*” Do you agree or disagree?

Read I John 2:1-2.

Where has our sin been dealt with once and for all?

If Christ has already paid the price for my sin and is waiting to forgive me, then on whom does the burden of responsibility fall for effective fellowship?

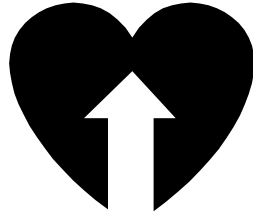
Truly, it’s our attitude about our sin, not necessarily the fact of it, that makes the greatest difference in our relationship with God.

Essentially. . . .

. . . my fellowship time with God is most effective when I’m walking in the light, which means I’m being open and honest with God about my sin. How specific are you when talking with God about the sin He already knows about? How willing are you to deal with attitudes and actions God exposes in your life?

Is There Enough Evidence To Convict?

It is clear that when we're honest with God about sin, our fellowship with Him takes on a new meaning. But that's not the end of the story! For those who walk in the light regularly, certain traits begin to appear – character qualities related to fellowship. John spends the remainder of the book discussing two primary traits that will develop in the life of the fellowshipping Christian. Take note, though, that these traits can also be seen as tests. If they're not being manifested in your life, it may be clear you're really not fellowshiping after all.



Read I John 2:1-11.

Study Questions:

I John 2:1-2 states that sin does not *have* to be a problem. Since Christ dealt with it on the cross, we have the power to either overcome it (before we sin) or gain forgiveness (after we sin). In order to fully understand Christ's work for us in regards to sin, look up the two titles *Advocate* and *propitiation*. Write out a definition of these terms which refer to the work of Christ.

Which deals with his past work?

Which deals with his present work?

2:3 now states the obvious – since Christ *has dealt* with sin and *can still deal* with sin, those who “keep His commandments” (i.e., don't sin) are truly the ones who know (i.e., fellowship with) God. In one word, what does 2:3 say is one primary trait of a genuine “fellowshipper?”

The verses *before* 3:9 deal with which one of our primary traits?

The verses *following* 3:9 deal with what other primary trait?

According to 3:4-8 . . .

. . . define sin. What other words would you use to describe these two words?

. . . why did Jesus come to earth? Also look at John 1:29 for a phrase much like the one here in 3:5.

. . . what does John mean when he writes that if you know God you don't sin – that you don't sin *ever* or that you don't sin *consistently*?

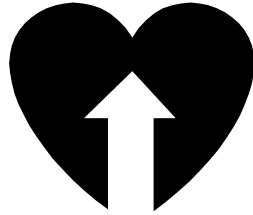
. . . what “deception” was John attempting to help these believers overcome?

. . . what idea is associated with the word *appeared* in verse 5 and verse 8?

. . . whether we are “of the devil” or “of God” is evidenced by what one thing?

Duct Tape Spirituality

Admit it – Lots of people do good things and treat others nicely even though they hardly ever spend any time with God. So the question now becomes, “Why can’t I just add those items to my life my own way?” Good question! Though it may appear possible by the good citizenship of some fine people, we can’t just attach ourselves to God’s good side with a heavenly adhesive, some sort of spiritual duct tape that allows us the benefits of God without having to become an integral part of His body. John now clarifies some root issues about love and obedience by showing us from where the power to love and obey truly originates.



Read I John 3:1-24

Study Questions:

The critical verse in this chapter is 3:9. Write it below.

In 3:9, what is it that enables us to *not* sin?

2:4 seems to sound a lot like a previous verse in chapter 1. Which one? Write out any similar themes in the two verses.

According to 2:4, when we lie about our obedience, what is not in us? Connect the thoughts in 2:3-5. What is “knowing Him” associated with? What is lying linked to?

How is the love of God “perfected” (i.e., completed) in us?

The word perfected in 2:5 means completed, or brought to maturity. With that in mind, what does it mean to have the “love of God perfected” in us?

How many times do you see the word “know” in 2:1-6? What does this word mean? Use a reference Bible, Bible dictionary or commentary for help.

In 2:6, John sums up his thoughts on the first trait by saying we should walk how?

What phrase in 2:6 is the key to “walking as He walked?” Write down this phrase, then read John 15:4. What is the common idea in both verses?

Based on previous studies, what is another word you could use for that phrase/idea?

As a way to give an overview to some of John’s themes . . .

. . . John 15 talks about **abiding**.

. . . I John 1 talks about **fellowship**.

. . . I John 2:3-6 talks about **knowing**.

Would you say these are essentially the same concepts? In what ways are they similar (or connected)? Write out your thoughts about the common elements in these ideas in two to three sentences.

Scan back through 2:3-6. What is the first trait of someone who is consistently walking in the light (or fellowshiping/knowing/abiding)? Write out the actual biblical phrases, and then sum them all up in your own word(s).

Read 2:7-11. What is the second character trait of someone walking in the light?

Finish these sentences:

We are in darkness if . . .

We are in the light if . . .

Cross reference 2:7-8 with 4:21. What is this commandment that is “new” but also “old?”

What do you think John means when he writes that this commandment is “old,” yet, on the other hand, “new?”

Read 2:9-11 and . . .

. . . describe the one who loves his brother.

. . . describe the one who hates his brother.

Looking back, what are the two primary traits of the fellowshiping Christian?

1.

2.

Remember – these are also tests. In other words, if we find that we aren’t obeying God and loving others consistently, the problem is we’re not fellowshiping properly. So ask yourself, “Is there evidence of **obedience** and **love** in my life to prove to others I regularly fellowship with God?” Here’s a better question – If **obeying God** and **loving others** were a crime, would there be enough evidence to convict *you*?

Essentially . . .

. . . those who fellowship with God develop the traits of obedience and love. After all, *doing* what Jesus would do (2:3-6) and *loving* as Jesus would love (2:7-11) comes from *knowing* as much about Him as we can. Simply put, that’s fellowship!