

# The Abiding Life

## Discussion Guide

Week of October 1- **Children of God**

**Scripture verse: 1 John 2:18-3:10**

### **LOOKING BACK:**

1. Last week we took time to think about brothers and sisters we have failed to love as God asks us. Did you pray about showing love to another person in the way Jesus intends?
2. Did you take the opportunity to love this person? What did that look like?
3. What suggestions shared in the group last week were most helpful when it came to changing your thoughts and actions towards this person? Please share with the group.

**OPENING QUESTION:** What characteristics would you consider a “child of God” to possess? When you have received a gift, would you ever knowingly choose to offend or cause grief to the gift giver?

### **LOOKING UP:**

1. When you read the passage below look for what John explains are His gifts as heirs of Christ?
2. When you think of the greatest gifts we’ve been given from God, aside from the immense gift of salvation, what comes to mind?

**READ THE PASSAGE****1 John 2:18-3:10**

Answer the first 2 questions after reading the passage

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about God?
4. What does this teach us about people?

**RE-READ THE PASSAGE**

Read the passage again using another Bible translation... then answer the last 2 questions

**LOOKING FORWARD:**

Matthew Henry's Commentary of this passage in John says, "He that doeth righteousness is righteous, and to be a follower of Christ, shows an interest by faith in his obedience and sufferings. But a man cannot act like the devil, and at the same time be a disciple of Christ Jesus. Let us not serve or indulge what the Son of God came to destroy."

1. In a minute you will pray privately by yourself for 2 minutes. While praying, ask God to clearly bring to mind how you are indulging the very things Jesus came to destroy. Listen for the Holy Spirit to speak (during these 2 minutes).
2. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you?
3. Pair up with someone of the same gender. In this group, discuss how you will go about changing this behavior during the week to avoid grieving the Spirit. Use your partner to encourage, pray and hold one another accountable.
4. Make a plan with this partner to touch base during the week to check in and ask questions with this partner such as:

- a. What plan can we make together (as partners) to keep away from our temptation or sin?
- b. How have you submitted to the Lord today and avoided this temptation or sin?
- c. What is the best way I (your partner) can encourage you or remind you to keep from indulging in what Jesus came to destroy?