

English Transcript
How to Study the Bible
Lesson 7 - Classify Your Results

Welcome back to How to Study the Bible. We have just two lessons to go to complete this course. In Lesson 7 we will demonstrate another helpful step in the study process to gain even deeper understanding of a book of the Bible. In this step you will classify the results obtained by your verse-by-verse study. You have discovered and recorded a great number of facts. The work now is to put these in some sense of order.

No doubt, you have noticed several important themes or topics in your study so far through Steps 1 through 5. I encourage you to make a list of these topics for 1 John.

Here are just some of the topics and words I have noted in 1 John that might be worthy of further study.

- From the Beginning
- Life
- Proclaim/Testify
- Eternal Life
- God
- The Father
- The Son of God, Jesus Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- Appeared/Manifested
- Fellowship
- Light vs Darkness
- Claim
- Walk or live
- Truth vs Lie/Falsehood
- Purify
- Forgiveness
- Right/Righteous vs Sin
- Atonement
- The World
- What we can Know to be true
- Obey/Obedience
- Love vs Hate
- Overcome
- Antichrist(s)/False Teachers
- Deny
- Lead astray

- Anointing
- Remain/Continue/Abide
- Belong
- Born of God
- Dear Children
- Hope
- Devil
- Water and Blood

For learning activity #5, turn to pages 34-37. For this activity, I have selected two possible topics for you to classify and study in a deeper way within 1 John.

The two topics to explore are what does 1 John say about the doctrine of “*Jesus Christ, the Son of God*” and the phrase “*What we can know*”. Both are repeated throughout 1 John.

For this activity you may select one of these topics and go back through 1 John to see what is written about the topic in each of the five chapters of 1 John. You may use pages 34-37 to record your findings. To get you started, I have included the first few findings for each in your handout.

I selected these two topics because John was writing to encourage believers in their faith so that they would know with assurance that their faith was genuine. John seemed to write to “*confirm the genuine*” and “*challenge the counterfeit*”. True believers know the truth and thus abide in Christ. False teachers promote heresy and believers are warned to be on guard.

John called out two groups throughout 1 John and used these kinds of words and phrases to classify the two groups.

Group 1: Children, you/us/we, know, truth, belong, abide/remain, anointing, eternal life

Group 2: Antichrists, they/them, went out, not belonging, lie, deny, lure/seduce/lead astray, counterfeit.

Much of 1 John deals with the conflict between these two groups, the true followers of Jesus and the false teachers. There were several heresies in the first century promoted by false teachers that John had to confront such as, Docetism, Cerinthus, Gnosticism, and the Ebionites.

The two topics that I selected, the doctrine of Jesus Christ and the things that we can know to be true, would have been important for believers to know to stand strong against the false teachers in 90AD, and they are just as important for us today.

You may select one topic to classify results.

If you select the topic, “*Jesus Christ/Son of God*”, here are some of the references that I found that reveal more to us about the doctrine of Jesus Christ. There are more than 35 references in support of this topic in 1 John.

Jesus Christ/Son of God

- 1:1 from the beginning
- 1:2 he appeared (Incarnation), with the Father, he appeared to us (incarnation & resurrection)
- 1:3 we can have fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ
- 1:5 John shared the message with them that God is Light (Jesus is the Light of the world)

If you select the statement “*what we can know*” which is repeated many times in 1 John, I have included the first seven that I found in chapters 1 and 2. There are at least 15 more references in chapters 3 through 5.

What 1 John says “we can know”:

- 2:3 We can come to know him if we keep his commands.
- 2:6 We are in him. Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.
- 2:13 him who is from the beginning.
- 2:14 know the Father, know him who is from the beginning.
- 2:18 This is the last hour, antichrists/false teachers will depart from the fellowship.
- 2:20 you have an anointing from the Holy Spirit, you know the truth.
- 2:29 he is the righteous one, everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

After you have recorded your findings (classifications) take some time to review and synthesize your results. Write a brief summary of what you have learned about either the “doctrine of Jesus Christ, the son of God” or “what you can know or be assured of” and how either topic contributes to the any of the four purpose statements found in 1 John.

Your summary statements may be written on page 37 in your handout.

Once again, my notes are included on pages 49 and 50 in the Appendix.

You may pause the audio recording now and begin learning activity #5. Feel free to complete this activity for both topics if you desire. This process can be repeated for any topic of interest that you have identified in your study of the book. When you have completed the activity, restart the audio for a brief summary.

Welcome back! How did you do?

Were you surprised at the number of supporting references for each topic? When you were reading through 1 John, and creating your book chart, and even doing your verse-by-verse study, you probably had a sense that certain words, phrases, or topics were repeated. You may have sensed that each may be important to gain a deeper understanding of what God intended to communicate to the original audience.

Until you take the time though to dig deeper and classify the results for a specific topic, you really won't have a proper appreciation for what God is communicating and what you may also communicate with your audience through your teaching and preaching to better know God through what he has revealed in 1 John.

Let's do a brief summary of the results for each topic and what we have learned from this activity.

1. Jesus Christ/Son of God (Doctrinal truths from 1 John)

- 1:1 from the beginning (eternal)
- 1:2 He appeared (Incarnation), was with the Father, appeared to us (Apostles)
- 1:3 We can have fellowship with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ
- 1:5 Jesus shared this message that God is Light (He also is the Light of the World)
- 1:7 He is the light, His blood purifies us from all sin (if we follow Jesus we will never walk in darkness)
- 2:1 He is our Advocate before the Father (represents us), the Righteous One (we are secure in Christ)
- 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (propitiation – wash away all sin not just over sin)
- 2:6 Jesus provides the example for us to follow in obedience
- 2:22 Jesus is denied by the antichrists as the Christ
- 2:23 Deny the Son you also deny the Father, acknowledge the Son you also acknowledge the Father
- 2:24 Remain/Abide in the Son = you possess eternal life
- 2:28 Jesus will appear/come again
- 2:29 If we are righteous, we are born of him
- 3:2 Jesus will appear again, we will be like him, we will see him as he is (glorified)
- 3:3 Jesus is pure, and He is making us pure
- 3:4 Jesus appeared to take away our sins; Jesus is sinless
- 3:8 Jesus appeared to destroy the work of the devil
- 3:9 God's Seed (Gen 3:15) remains in the true believer
- 3:16 Jesus laid down his life for us (our substitute)
- 3:23 We are to believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ
- 4:2 Jesus came in the flesh (The Incarnation)
- 4:9 Jesus was sent by the Father into the world that we might live through him
- 4:10 God sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins
- 4:14 The Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the World
- 4:15 If we acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in us and us in God
- 4:17 In this world we are being conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28-30)
- 5:1 If we believe that Jesus is the Christ = we are born of God

- 5:5 In Christ we overcome the world = the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God
- 5:6 Jesus came by water (baptism) and blood (crucifixion), Spirit testifies about Jesus as well
- 5:9 God testifies about his Son (God can't lie – Titus 1:2)
- 5:10 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God believes God's testimony
- 5:11 Life is in the Son, Have the Son you have life, don't have the Son then you don't have life
- 5:13 If you believe in the name of the Son of God you know you have eternal life
- 5:18 Jesus keeps us safe and the evil one can't harm us
- 5:20 The Son of God has come and given us understanding (of spiritual things), We can know him, he is the true God and Eternal life (Eternal Life is not a thing or a place but the person of Jesus Christ)

This is a summary of the learnings about the doctrine of Jesus Christ that are all revealed in 1 John.

1. Jesus is eternal (1:1)
2. Jesus was sent by the Father (4:14)
3. Jesus is the Incarnation "The Christ" (1:2, 4:2)
4. Jesus was Baptized (5:6)
5. Jesus lived a sinless life (2:6, 3:3-4)
6. Jesus died as our substitute (2:2, 3:6)
7. Jesus rose from the dead; He is the overcomer (5:5)
8. Jesus ascended to the throne as our Advocate (2:1)
9. Jesus is coming again (2:28, 3:2)
10. Jesus is the True God, and eternal life (5:20)

2. What we "*can know to be true*" from 1 John

- 2:3 We have come to know him if we keep his commands
- 2:6 We are in him! Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did
- 2:13 Know him who is from the beginning
- 2:14 Know the Father, Know him who is from the beginning
- 2:18 This is the last hour, antichrists/false teachers depart from the fellowship
- 2:20 Believers have an anointing to understand spiritual truths that comes for the Holy Spirit, you can know the truth
- 2:29 He is righteous, everyone who does what is right has been born of him
- 3:2 When Christ appears again, we shall be like him (transformed), we shall see him as he is (glorified)
- 3:5 Jesus appeared to take away our sin, Jesus is sinless, no one in him continues to live a life of sin, no one who continues a life of sin has seen him or knows him
- 3:10 Who the children of God are: anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, not anyone who does not love his brother (love and obedience working together as evidence of true faith)
- 3:14 That we have passed from death to life because we love one another
- 3:16 What love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us and we should follow his example
- 3:19 That we belong to the Truth, and we set our hearts at rest in his presence – no condemnation in Christ
- 3:24 We know these truths by the Spirit he gave us
- 4:6 We can recognize the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood by who listens to the false teachers and who listens to believers teach the Word of God
- 4:13 We live in him and he in us; he has given us his Spirit; we know the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world

4:16 We can rely on the love God has for us
5:2-3 That we love the children of God by loving God and obeying his commands
5:11 The testimony of God as to have has the Son and life and who does not
5:13 That we have eternal life
5:15 If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us, and we know we have what we have asked of him
5:18 Anyone born of God does not continue a life of sin, the One born of God keeps us safe and the evil one cannot harm us
5:19 We are children of God and the whole world is under the control of the evil one
5:20 Son of God has come and given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ; Jesus is the True God and eternal life

This is a summary of the learnings about “what we can know to be true” that are all revealed in 1 John.

- We can know God personally!
- We can know the existence of evil/Satan/false teachers.
- We can know and understand the truth of Scripture.
- We can know/discern truth from lies.
- We can know the love of God!
- We can know that we have eternal life.
- We can know that we have overcome the world in Christ.
- We know we can live a victorious life in Christ by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As I stated, this is an optional step in the 7-Step bible study process. This step will expand the depth of your knowledge and understanding of any book that you study. Our final step in the process will be introduced in Lesson 8 along with your final learning activity for this course.