

Essential Pictures

The Book of First John – EPISODE 5 (1 John 2:28-3:10)

*Note for production team

1 John 2:28-3:10

(1) A Family Picture

1 John 2:28–3:1 (NLT)

²⁸ And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame. ²⁹ Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children. ¹ See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.

We can call Him Father.

Romans 8:5-17

(2) Picture Perfect Future

1 John 3:2-3

Revelation 21:1–4 (NLT)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Romans 8:18-23

(3) A Relationship Portrait

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1 John 3:4-8

Jesus was without sin - never missing the mark of abiding relationship with God. Jesus was the sinless one. When we keep our eyes and love focused on the sinless one, we will sin less.

The antidote to sin is love; Love received by God and love returned to God.

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Bible Recap reading plan.

Recite this prayer daily:

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or your Group)

Read 1 John 2:28-3:10. What do you notice in this passage?

Sunday's message was about getting an accurate picture of Jesus and our relationship with Him.

What was one key take-away for you?

John calls us "little children". Do you find that encouraging or do you find yourself resistant to that label? Why?

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Read Romans 8 (whole chapter). What do you notice about God in this passage? What in this passage correlates to the passage in 1 John that we read earlier?

What are some terms you would use to describe the DNA or characteristics of God's family?

At the end of the service, we paused to ask God to give us a picture of our current relationship with Him. What images did you see?

Recite the above prayer as a group.