



## 1 JOHN 5:1-5

A small yet beautiful letter in the New Testament, 1 John encourages its readers back to the basics of Christian life: truth, obedience, and most of all, a growing devotion to and affection for the Lord. With simple wording and phrases the priority of building our relationship with the Lord runs throughout. Penned at a time when the foundational truths of Christianity were only beginning to be attacked by errors and heresies, John seizes the opportunity to speak much of love and obedience, shifting now in these particular verses to discuss a life lived by faith in the Son of God.

### THE SCRIPTURE

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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<sup>2</sup> Within 1 John, every time that the world is mentioned, it is not in reference to the physical side of the world, but rather it indicates anything (or anyone) that opposes Jesus Christ.

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: 1 JOHN 5:1-5

### OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Who, on a human level, do you believe loves you the most in this world? And how do you come to that conclusion?
2. Can you relate to a feeling of being overcome by the world? What kinds of things cause you to feel this way?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. In the passage circle the word "love" and all its forms every time it occurs. Underline also the word, "commandments."
4. Scan the immediate context of these verses. What happens immediately before? What happens after? Do these verses at all relate to this passage?
5. Read again 1 John 5:1. As simple as the language is, the phrasing can be difficult to understand. Try to rewrite or paraphrase this verse in a way that is clear to you.
6. In verse 2, John connects the love of God with obedience to God. Why are these two actions the key to "knowing" that you love the children of God?
7. According to verse 3, what unique quality do God's commands have? Why is this true? Do you find this to be the case? Why, or why not?
8. Take a close look at your life: are there any parts of it that you know don't please God? If there are, what are they?

9. Picture speaking to a non-native English speaker, and trying to explain the word, "overcome." How would you relate the meaning to him or her in simple language?
10. Read John 16:33. How does this verse better help us understand 1 John 5:4-5?
11. Your friend Tom is grappling with doubts about whether he has genuinely committed his life to the Lord. Alongside exploring other passages in Scripture, how could you help him in grasping the essence of genuine and saving faith as outlined in 1 John 5:1-5? What are the three 'tests' presented in these verses, and how might you relate them to him to provide comfort and encouragement?

## **CLOSING OUT**

12. What do you sense the Lord is teaching you or growing you in at the moment?
13. How can we be praying for you?