1 John Questions to Ponder as You Read

For August 20, read 1 John Chapter 1 and think about the following:

1. What brings joy to the writer? What brings joy to your life?

2. What similarities do you find between 1 John 1 and John 1: 1-18 (you’ll need to read that too!)

3. 1 John was written to a community of believers (a church or churches, so to speak), so keep this in mind when you read, “we,” throughout this first chapter. Think about verses 6 and 8 in particular. What do these verses say to churches who want to pretend that they are “perfect?” Think about someone at your school whom you consider to be really bad...someone who obviously sins a lot. Would that person be welcome in our church or youth group? Should he/she be welcome?

4. What does it mean to “walk in darkness” or “walk in light?” Is the writer just referring to night and day?

5. Throughout 1 John, the “s” word, “sin,” appears a lot. How do you understand sin? What does this first chapter seem to say about sin?
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For August 27, read 1 John Chapter 2 and think about the following:

1. How well are you doing with v. 6? What are ways in which you are living as Jesus did? What are some things you do that you know Jesus would not do if He lived in our world today?

2. Think about verses 9-11. Often there are people in our lives who we can’t stand…we may possibly hate them. Sometimes these people may even be our brothers and sisters in Christ. What do these verses say about hating people? Are there people in your life whom you need to learn to love?

3. 1 John 2:15 is not the only passage of Scripture that talks about not loving the world. What are ways in which we love the world? How do you understand v. 16?

4. Okay, so 1 John was probably written around the year 100 and many of them felt that Jesus would be coming back anytime (note reference to the “last hour” in v. 18). It’s now 1908 years later and Jesus still hasn’t returned. What do you think about the Second Coming? Do you live as if Jesus might come back during your lifetime?

5. Are there people or things in your life that lead you away from God? Do the messages of the TV shows you watch and songs you listen to and the friends you hang out with lead you closer to God or further from God?
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For September 3, read 1 John Chapter 3 and think about the following:

1. Verses 1-3 sound a bit confusing. What do you think the writer is trying to say in these verses? Is there hope to be found in these verses?

2. Do you agree or disagree with verse 9? As Christians should we be okay with having sin in our lives? What are ways in which we take for granted God's love and forgiveness?

3. “Love one another” (v. 11) is a very important concept throughout the entire Bible. People use the word, “love,” all the time and often it is misused. Think about the last few days and list ways in which you have shown Christian love to another person.

4. Keep thinking about how you understand “love,” and think about verses 16-18. How does the writer of 1 John seem to understand love? (Notice he doesn’t say anything about boyfriends and girlfriends 😊)

5. To live in Christ, the writer of 1st John indicates two commands to be very important…what are they? (Hint: v. 23 😊)
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For September 10, read 1 John Chapter 4 and think about the following:

1. At the beginning of this chapter, we once again read of the evils of the world. Now, remember this book was written to a particular group of folks living around the year 100; it wasn’t written directly to us in 2008, but it has been passed down to us as part of the Bible. So, clearly the world in 100 was not living the way God would have it to live. What about our world today? Think about the ways of the world; are these ways pleasing to God? What is the difference between listening to the world and listening to God?

2. According to v. 7-12, who loves first? What do people need to see in our lives in order to see God? God sent Jesus to this world. Why is this considered an ultimate expression of love?

3. By this time you should be noticing that the writer of 1 John repeats himself a lot. Warren Carter, previous New Testament Professor at Saint Paul School of Theology, has a “famous” quote, “If it’s repeated, it’s important.” What are some of the important messages of 1 John (what are the messages that have been repeated)?

4. Nowhere in the Bible is the word, “Trinity,” mentioned. This idea of God being 3 in 1 has been difficult for believers to fully grasp throughout history. Yet, there are passages of Scripture that refer to the 3 persons of the Trinity. There are a couple of verses in this chapter that refer to the 3 persons of the Trinity...can you find them?

5. Going back to the beginning of the chapter, there’s mention of “testing the spirits.” How do you do this and how do you recognize a false prophet. What is a false prophet?
1 John Questions to Ponder as You Read

For September 17, read 1 John Chapter 5 and think about the following:

1. Often the word, “command,” has a negative sound. Do you like to be commanded to do things? Yet, what does the writer of 1 John say about God’s commands in v. 3? Why do you think God gives us commands?

2. In the Christian church, what does water represent? What does blood represent?

3. What does the writer of 1 John say is the reason for his writing?

4. In verse 16, the writer mentions “a sin that leads to death,” but doesn’t really indicate what that is? What do you think he might be talking about and why? (Think about what has been said in 1 John up until this point)

5. Okay, so you’ve read through an entire book of the Bible, 1 John…that’s FANTASTIC! If you had to pick one verse to memorize from the whole book (all 5 chapters), what would it be and why?