

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, September 20th, 2026

“A Journey through the Book of 1st John”

“A New, Old Commandment”

Sermon Text: **1 John 2:1-17**; Old Testament Text: **Proverbs 4:1-8**; Gospel Text: **Mark 12:28-**

31. Read 1 John 2:1-17, then answer the questions below.

1. Read **1 John 2:1**. Why do you think John addresses his audience as *my little children*?

2. What does an advocate do for someone he represents?

3. Read **1 John 2:2**. What does the word *propitiation* mean?

4. How did Jesus provide this for us and the whole world?

5. Read **1 John 2:3**. What proves that we’ve come to know Jesus?

6. Read **1 John 2:4-6**. If we claim to know Jesus, what should be true about the way we live?

7. Read **1 John 2:7**. According to this verse, what is the *old commandment & when did they first hear it*?
8. Read **1 John 2:8**. What is it that transforms *the old commandment into something new*?
9. Read **1 John 2:9-11**. According to this passage, what should we lose when we truly come to *know the love of Jesus*?
10. Read **1 John 2:12-14**. What do you think John's ultimate purpose was in writing these three verses?
11. Read **1 John 2:15-17**. Why is *loving the world* such a pointless task?
12. Why is *the love of the Father* so much more valuable than *the love of the world*?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Proverbs 4:1-8** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
 1. Read **Proverbs 4:1**. Why does King Solomon want his sons to pay close attention to his instructions?
 2. Read **Proverbs 4:2**. What does King Solomon want his sons to understand about his teaching?
 3. Read **Proverbs 4:3-4**. From whom did King Solomon learn these teachings?
 4. What value did King David & King Solomon ascribe to these teachings?
 5. Read **Proverbs 4:5**. How would you define *wisdom* in your own words? How would you define *understanding*?
 6. Why did King David & King Solomon consider these two virtues to be so important?
 7. Read **Proverbs 4:6**. For wisdom to be of any value to us, what must we do with it?
 8. Read **Proverbs 4:7-8**. What is King Solomon telling us in these two verses?
 9. Read **Proverbs 1:7**. What is *the beginning of knowledge*? Can you think of examples from your own life that prove this statement?
 10. Read **Proverbs 1:20-33**. How does this passage illustrate what is wrong with the world today?

- II. Next read **Mark 12:28-31**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions.
 1. Read **Mark 12:28**. Give two possible reasons the *scribe asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"*
 2. Read **Mark 12:29**. Why is this statement so important in the Jewish faith? What is this statement the beginning of in the Jewish faith?
 3. Turn to **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. Now, read it aloud, with a different person reading each verse. What does Moses make perfectly clear in this passage?
 4. Read **Mark 12:30**. How does this statement differ from the second line of the Shema?
 5. What does it mean to you to *love the Lord your God with all your heart*?
 6. What does it mean to you to *love the Lord your God with all your soul*?
 7. What does it mean to you to *love the Lord your God with all your mind*?
 8. What does it mean to you to *love the Lord your God with all your strength*?

9. Read **Mark 12:31**. How does obeying **Mark 12:30** empower us to live out **Mark 12:31**?

III. Read **1 John 2:1-17**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:

1. Read **1 John 2:1**. Why do you think John addresses his audience as *my little children*?
2. What does an advocate do for someone he represents?
3. Read **1 John 2:2**. What does the word *propitiation* mean?
4. How did Jesus provide this for us and the whole world?
5. Read **1 John 2:3**. What proves that we've come to know Jesus?
6. Read **1 John 2:4-6**. If we claim to know Jesus, what should be true about the way we live?
7. Read **1 John 2:7**. According to this verse, what is the *old commandment & when did they first hear it*?
8. Read **1 John 2:8**. What is it that transforms *the old commandment into something new*?
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