

***GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION*****Knowing God's Love and Loving Others****1 John 2:1–14**

*If anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. 1 John 2:5a*

**Days 1 and 2: Read 1 John 2:1–2.**

1. John opens this week's passage by addressing "my dear children." What does this expression tell us about the concern John has for them?
  
2. Living among people who claim to be Christians but who don't believe in the reality of sin, John's readers need to be reminded of who is central to their faith. What do the following tell us about the person Jesus:
  - a. the name "Jesus" (Mt. 1:21)
  - b. "Christ" (Jn. 4:25–26)
  - c. "Righteous One" (Heb. 4:14–16)
  
3. John's readers need to be reminded not only of who Jesus is, but of what he does.
  - a. Why do we need an advocate before God? What possible defense can Jesus make on our behalf? (Col. 1:21–22; 1 Pet. 3:18)
  
  - b. What is an "atoning sacrifice"? What image would this phrase have conjured up in the minds of John's readers who were familiar with the Old Testament? (Heb. 9:1–3, 6–7)
  
4. For you today, what difference does it make to remember who Jesus is and what he has done?

**Day 3: Read 1 John 2:3–6.**

5. How can you know you love Jesus?
  
6. Where else have we heard about this relationship between love and obedience? (Jn. 14:15; 15:10)
  
7. What is the result of obedience to God's word? (vs. 5)

8. We know we are in God if we “walk as Jesus did” (vs. 6). Read John 15:1–8 with Galatians 5:22–23. What fruit will be produced in someone who “remains” in Christ (Jn. 15:5)?

**Day 4: Read 1 John 2:7–11.**

9. In verse 7 when John talks about a commandment his readers had heard from the beginning, what is he thinking about? (Lev. 19:18; Mt. 22:39–40; Gal. 5:14)
10. The old commandment became new when Jesus lived it out for the world to see. Now, what else is new (vs. 8) about it? (Heb. 8:10)
11. Who is the source of true light? (Jn. 1:1–9)
12. What effect does darkness have on our ability to move about unhindered? (vss. 10–11)
13. What does our attitude towards our fellow believers tell us about our relationship with God? (vss. 9–11; see also Jn. 13:34–35 and 15:12–17)

**Day 5: Read 1 John 2:12–14.**

14. In these verses John addresses three groups of people. List the reasons he gives for writing to each group.
15. The truths listed in verses 12–14 describe all believers. Which truth from this list do you need to be reminded of today?
16. Read Romans 8:1–17 and review this week’s passage. How can you be sure that your sins have been forgiven, and that you are God’s own dear child?