

Community Group Leader Guide

This We Know – Week 3

Missed the sermon? Watch here: [YouTube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@CommunityLifeChurch)

Announcements

1 John Study Guide: Don't do the heavy lifting by yourself! We have a guide available to help you follow along personally, with your family, or in your Community Group of our study of 1st John. You can find it at www.clifec.com/1john.

Icebreaker Question

What is something you used to enjoy, but after a change in your life, you just can't enjoy it the same way anymore? This could be a food, habit, hobby, show, or anything else that hits differently now.

Sermon Review

This week, we continued our study of 1 John and talked about the relationship between **salvation and obedience**. John is writing to believers who were confused by false teachers who claimed to know God but lived with no concern for the commands or ways of Jesus. John makes it clear that we are not saved by obedience, but genuine salvation will always produce a growing life of obedience.

This does not mean Christians never struggle or never sin. John has already told us that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves (that was wk. 2!). But it does mean that a person who truly knows Jesus cannot be content living in ongoing, unrepentant disobedience.

Starting Questions

Why do you think the relationship between grace and obedience can be confusing for people?

How would you explain the difference between obedience earning salvation and obedience revealing salvation?

Deeper Questions

Read 1 John 2:1–6

Why is it important that John begins this section by reminding us that Jesus is our **Advocate** before he talks about obedience?

Verse 3 says, “By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.” What does obedience reveal about a person’s relationship with Jesus?

Read John 14:15, John 14:21, and John 15:5–10

Jesus connects love, abiding, fruit, and obedience. Why do you think love for Jesus produces obedience to Jesus?

What is the difference between trying harder to be a better person and abiding in Jesus?

What happens when someone tries to obey God without relationship with God?

Personal and Group Application

1. Examine the pattern of *your* life.

Make a point during the CG to have everyone pause and to do a little soul-inventory. Prayerfully ask God to help you see the honest direction of your life. Don’t ask, “Have I ever sinned?” Everyone has. Ask, “Am I walking with Jesus? Am I fighting sin? Am I growing in obedience? Am I becoming more like Christ?”

A simple prayer you could lead the group in: “God, help me see what is true about my life. Show me where I am growing, show me where I am resisting You, and lead me toward obedience.”

2. Invite some encouragement in certain areas

If your CG is at a place where they can handle this sort of thing and it wouldn’t be embarrassing or awkward, consider having everyone share where you need prayer, encouragement, or support and then let the group speak into it.

Prayer Requests

Spend time praying for your group to have both confidence in the grace of Jesus and a growing desire to obey Jesus.

Pray for assurance for believers who are fighting sin, grieving sin, and growing in Christ.

Pray for conviction for anyone who has claimed faith in Jesus but has no concern for obedience or life change.