

# Community Group Leader Guide

## This We Know | Week 7

### 1 John 2:28–3:3

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

### Icebreaker Question

What is something you do now that makes you realize, “Oh no... I am becoming my parents”?

### Quick Recap

This week, we continued our study of 1 John by looking at 1 John 2:28–3:3. The big identity statement in this passage is that we are children of God. Not symbolically. Not metaphorically. Really. In Christ, God is our Father, and we are His children. And because children tend to grow up looking like their parents, the life of a believer should increasingly reflect the character and righteousness of the Father.

### Starting Questions

1. Why do you think John connects confidence at Christ’s return with abiding in Christ right now?
2. What does it look like for a normal person with a normal week to abide in Christ?

### Deeper Questions

#### 1. Abide in Him

Read 1 John 2:28 closely.

John says, “Abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.”

- Why does disobedience often create a desire to hide from God?
- Have you ever had the thought, “I hope Jesus doesn’t come back right now”? What does that

reveal about how sin and shame work?

## 2. Practice Righteousness

Read 1 John 2:29.

John says that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him. This does not mean we earn our way into God's family by being good. It means that people who have been born of God begin to show family resemblance.

- Why is it important to understand the difference between being made righteous before God and practicing righteousness in everyday life?
- Where do you see God growing you in righteousness right now?
- What is one area where you know God is calling you to bring your life more fully into alignment with who you are in Christ?

**Leader note:** This could be a good place to briefly help your group distinguish justification and sanctification. Justification is God declaring us righteous through faith in Jesus. Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus over time.

## 3. Children of God

Read 1 John 3:1.

John says, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."

- Why do you think John slows down and marvels at the fact that we are children of God?
- What changes when we realize that "child of God" is not just a nice phrase, but a real identity?
- For some people, the word "father" brings comfort. For others, it brings pain. How does God's Fatherhood heal, correct, or complete our understanding of what a father is supposed to be?
- What would change this week if you really lived like God was your Father?

## Take Action

- Take a few minutes this week and honestly ask: "Is there any area of my life where I would feel ashamed if Jesus returned today?" Don't ask it to spiral into guilt. Ask it as an invitation to abide in Christ.
- Practice living out your identity. Choose one specific area where your life needs to come into alignment with the truth that you are a child of God.

- Pursue one step of righteousness this week. Not ten. One. It may be confession, an apology, a habit change, deleting something, asking for help, starting a prayer rhythm, or obeying something you have delayed.
- Spend time meditating on 1 John 3:1. Let the sentence “and so we are” sink in.

## **Prayer Requests**

- Pray that your group would abide in Christ and live with confidence as they wait for His return.
- Pray for freedom from hidden shame and secret sin.
- Pray that each person would deeply understand what it means to be a child of God.
- Pray for anyone with father wounds to experience the love and nearness of God the Father.
- Pray that your group would not just know their identity, but live in alignment with it.
- Pray that God would keep making each person more like Jesus.

## **Bonus Leader Content**

Just always good to be sensitive around the fatherhood language. For some people, calling God Father is deeply comforting. For others, it may take some work to separate God’s perfect Fatherhood from the failures of an earthly father. Don’t rush that. Just keep pointing people back to the truth that God is not the shadow of our earthly father. He is the standard every earthly father was meant to reflect.