



## Week 48: 1, 2, 3 John & Jude

### Study Guide for the week of Nov. 23-29

#### Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, trace John and the development of his faith – he evolved from being named one of the “Sons of Thunder” to being called “The Apostle of Love.”

Jesus called John one of the Sons of Thunder, possibly because of three events in John’s life that show him in less than a positive light. Read Luke 9:49-50; 51-56; Mark 10:35-45. What did John need to learn about the inclusive, peace-filled, servant kingdom Jesus was bringing?

John was one of the disciples in Jesus’ inner circle and had the privilege of witnessing three extraordinary events. Read Mark 5:21-43; 9:2-8; 14:32-42. What effect would these three events have had on John and how he understood Jesus?

John was transformed by Jesus’ love; the Gospel of John calls John “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Read John 13:21-30; 19:25-27; 20:1-10; 21:1-8; 21:20-23. The original Greek suggests a continuous flow of Jesus’ love. How would your life be transformed if you were open to Jesus’ unwavering love for you?

John’s response to Jesus’ love was to write 1 John 4:16. What will you write in response to God’s love for you through his son Jesus?

#### Discussion starters

1. Is it easy for you to admit you are wrong and say you’re sorry? Why or why not? Have you ever been rebuffed or ridiculed or made to feel even worse when you attempted to apologize? Reread 1 John 1:8-9. How does God promise to respond to your confession? Should you fear saying “I’m sorry” to God?
2. For John, love is not just a feeling, but action. How does John expect a believer to act since they love God? Reread 1 John 2:3-6 and 5:1-3 for the answer. How are you loving in word and speech (1 John 3:18)? In truth and action?
3. Reread 1 John 4:19. Is God’s love an “originating” or “responsive” love? Is our love originating or responsive? Why does this matter so much to John – remember, he also wrote John 3:16!
4. Jude doesn’t ignore the problems Christians face in the world (Jude 17-19). Can you identify current day scoffers and divisions we face? What does Jude urge his readers to do to remain living in the true faith (Jude 20-23)? How are you following Jude’s advice?

#### Bible verse to memorize: 1 John 4:16