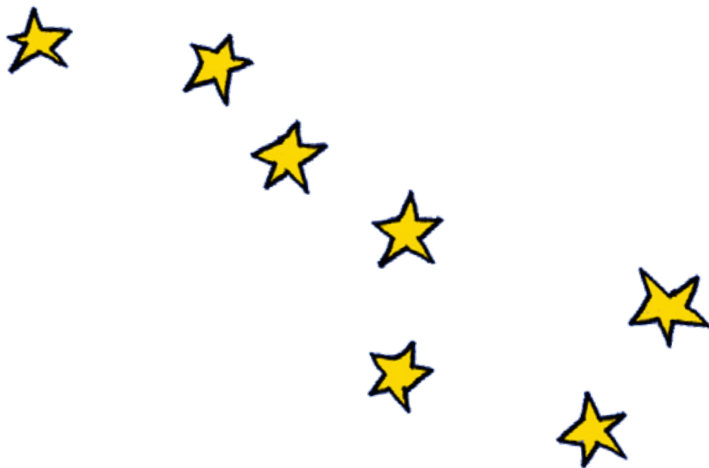




1 John

Discussion Guide

J.D.Walt





Getting Started

Welcome!

Daily Seeds is a different kind of Bible study. You will learn information about the Bible along the way, such as its history, context, original languages, and authors. But the goal is not educational in nature. The goal is transformation.

Daily Seeds is a proven discipleship resource that works in a variety of contexts, including small groups. Assuming your group meets weekly, class members should read one chapter from the 1 John study every day for 6 days. The 7th day of the week you will meet with your group to share, pray, and encourage one another with insights or struggles that group members encountered during the week's readings.

The guidelines for leading a group through a Daily Seeds study are meant to be simple, each working towards the goal of transformation. In the following pages you will find a weekly guide offering a meeting structure and discussion points. Each week encourages time to:

1. Hear the Text
2. Respond to the Text
3. Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship
4. Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Whether you're leading a group for the first time, or have been guiding discussions for years, this resource is designed to help you facilitate meaningful conversations, encourage spiritual reflection, and create a welcoming space where participants can grow in faith together.

I offer you an invitation through this book to journey with me and others to shift the priority of your heart and mind. Each day we will gather around a biblical text. We will invite the text of Scripture to speak both the first and the last word of our day. Write some of the text for the day in a journal or on a notecard, a whiteboard, or a chalkboard, and make it a simple act of worship to read it aloud each morning as the first word of the day and also at the close as the last word of the day. And something tells me these First-Word-Last-Word-God's-Word paths will find their way into tomorrow and next week and next month onward, until they have become our lives.



Week 1

1 John 1:1–2:2

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 1:1–2:2. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

What difference does it make to you that our faith is founded on the testimony of eyewitnesses and not merely on our own spiritual experience?

What relationships in your life are compromised or broken? What might this tell you about your relationship with God?

How would your life be different if you began to see sin less as your moral failure and more as your callous disregard of other people?

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Week 2

1 John 2:3–19

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 2:3–19. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

How does this litmus test—obedience to God's commands being the evidence of our knowing God—strike you? How does your life stand up to the test?

What keeps you from honestly opening yourself up to a few other people concerning how you are really doing? What if it takes others to help you find your way?

*How might you get past managing your behavior to realizing the deeper brokenness in your life?
What if you became convinced that the more honest you were about yourself, the more genuinely you could know and experience the grace and love of God?*

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Week 3

1 John 2:20–3:6

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 2:20–3:6. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

What if you began to claim, in your innermost being, the anointing of Christ in your life? What would you expect to happen? Why would you not do this?

Are you showing up every day to places of abiding in Jesus? What might change if you became more consistent in doing your small part?

Do you believe it is possible to be "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19)? How might you behold this fullness? What keeps you distracted from doing so?

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Week 4

1 John 3:7–18

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 3:7–18. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

Are you ready to take the "I'm not perfect, just forgiven" bumper sticker off your life? What might this mean practically? How might you claim your inheritance?

Is your faith more of the concentrate variety or the not-from-concentrate kind? What might a step toward making the switch to Simply Jesus look like?

How are your relationships? And what does that tell you about your relationship with Jesus? Are you uncomfortable with this line of questioning?

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Week 5

1 John 3:19–4:12

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 3:19–4:12. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

Do you tend to be a self-shamer or self-justifier? What will it take for you to move off this continuum or plane of existence?

Where in your faith do you need more clarity? Is your confidence in Jesus rooted more in your self-generated certainty or in Jesus' clear teaching and example?

Are you clear on the central and core truths concerning our Lord, Jesus Christ? Are your present leaders and teachers clear on this? How might you graciously discern this?

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Week 6

1 John 4:13–5:8

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 4:13–5:8. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

Do you have a more anxious presence with others or a more peace-filled presence? How can you stay mindful of this reality?

In your anger, what are you really angry about? What are you afraid of at the core of your being? How is that driving your life? How might this be arrested and subdued?

Do you tend to be surprised by trouble and pessimistic about overcoming it? If so, how might you become the kind of person who is not surprised by trouble but is filled with faith about overcoming it?

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Week 7

1 John 5:9–21

Invite the group into a period of silence for 1-5 minutes.

Hear the Text

Ask a member to read 1 John 5:9–21. After the reading allow a minute of silence to process.

Respond to the Text

Open up discussion for responses to the text. Use these questions to encourage reflection:

What did you hear? What did you see? What did you otherwise sense from the Lord?

Share Insights and Implications for Discipleship

Move in an orderly rotation around the group, or an open free-for-all depending on your group dynamics, and invite people to share their insights from the week's readings.

What did you find challenging, encouraging, provocative, comforting, invasive, inspiring, corrective, affirming, guiding, or warning?

Do you know you have eternal life? Are you experiencing eternal life now? How might you take the next step in appropriating this reality? What is keeping you from it?

Are you ready to take significant steps to construct a soul “in accordance with the new life God has put within”? Could it be that your going it alone is what is holding you back? How might you welcome another person or two to join you in this journey into the second half of the gospel?

Have you settled for religious practice instead of pressing into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?

Shape Intentions for Prayer and the Week Ahead

Invite each person in the group to share a single discipleship intention for the week ahead. During each person's turn check in on how their intention went during the previous week.

Close the meeting according to your established patterns.

Notes _____





Conclusion

We began our journey gazing into the night sky, tracing the stars, constellations, and galaxies of the revelation of the Word of God. We close our journey on the ground with the seeds of the Word of God to sow into the fields of this world.

As we conclude this study let's think on this playful and powerful creed of faith from J.D. Walt, found in the conclusion of the book:

Today, I sow for a great awakening.

Today, I stake everything on the promise of the Word of God. I depend entirely on the power of the Holy Spirit. I have the same mind in me that was in Christ Jesus. Because Jesus is good news and Jesus is in me, I am good news.

Today, I will sow the extravagance of the gospel everywhere I go and into everyone I meet.

Today, I will love others as Jesus as loved me.

Today, I will remember that the tiniest seeds become the tallest trees; that the seeds of today become the shade of tomorrow; that the faith of right now becomes the future of the everlasting kingdom.

Today, I sow for a great awakening.

