

Parent Curriculum Guide

Study: **Undisputed**

Overview: In the arena of life there are two contenders battling for victory: good and evil. This 16-week expository study of the book of I John will equip your students to distinguish between these two contenders and to realize the knockout blow that was made for the side of good by Jesus Christ.

Session One: Light vs. Darkness

Central Bible Truth: Light always defeats darkness, both physically and spiritually.

Focal Passage: I John 1:1-7

Outline:

1. In this corner light (v.5a)
2. In this corner darkness (vv.5b-6)
3. And the winner is (v.7)

Questions For Discussion:

1. How are our lives as Christians like lights?
2. Why does it matter that our lives shine brightly in the world?

Session Two: Man vs. Sin

Central Bible Truth: We cannot defeat sin on our own.

Focal Passage: I John 1:8-10

Outline:

1. A Strong Opponent (v.8)
 - A. Sin has defeated countless opponents (Romans 3:23)
 - B. Sin doesn't fight fair (James 1:14)
 - C. Sin fights to the death (James 1:15)
2. Throwing In The Towel (v.9)
3. Knocked Out (v.10)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What is the danger of hiding sin and refusing to admit it?
2. How can a Christian gain victory over sin?

Session Three: Christ vs. Sin

Central Bible Truth: Only Christ can defeat sin; we cannot do it on our own.

Focal Passage: I John 2:1-2

Outline:

1. The Plan: Avoid Sin (v.1a)
2. The Reality: Sin Is Impossible To Avoid (v.1b)
3. The Champ: Christ Fights For Us (vv.1c-2)
 - A. Christ is in our corner (v.1c)
 - B. Christ became a sacrifice for us (v.2)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What is the first and most important step to defeating sin?
2. Why is it impossible for a Christian to defeat sin in their own strength?

Session Four: Knowing vs. Not Knowing

Central Bible Truth: Knowing Christ means you walk like Him and you walk with Him.

Focal Passage: I John 2:3-6

Outline:

1. Knowing Christ Means You Follow The Leader. (v.3)
2. Knowing Christ Means You Have Changed Direction. (v.4)
3. Knowing Christ Means You Follow His Path. (v.5)
4. Knowing Christ Means You Imitate His Steps (v.6)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to walk closely with the Lord?
2. How can a person walk closely with the Lord and know Him intimately?

Session Five: Old vs. New

Central Bible Truth: Some things never change: God always wants us to love each other

Focal Passage: I John 2:7-14

Outline:

1. Old Command (v.7)
2. New Command (v.8)
3. Eternal Command (v.9-11)
4. Eternal Results (v.12-14)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important that we love those who are difficult to love?
2. How can we show our love to people who are hard to love?

Session Six: Temporary vs. Eternal

Central Bible Truth: We must keep our focus on eternity or we can waste our life on things that do not last.

Focal Passage: I John 2:15-17

Outline:

1. Stuck In The Temporary (vv.15-16)
 - A. Loving the world can't last (v.15)
 - B. Being loved by the world can't last (v.15)
 - C. The cravings of the flesh can't last (v.16)
 - D. The lust of the eyes can't last. (v.16)
 - E. The pride of life can't last. (v.16)
2. Focused On The Eternal (v.17)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important how you spend your time?
2. What are some things that you can spend your time on that will last?

Session Seven: Antichrist vs. The Truth

Central Bible Truth: Christians must be prepared to defend the faith against antichrists.

Focal Passage: I John 2:18-23

Outline:

Question 1: Who Is The Antichrist?

Answer: There are many antichrists. (v.18)

Answer: There is one ultimate antichrist coming one day. (v.18)

Question 2: What Does The Antichrist do?

Answer: He pulls people away from the Church. (v.19)

Answer: He denies that Jesus is who He said He was. (vv.20-22)

Answer: He attacks God. (v.23)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What is the best way to resist an antichrist?
2. How can you prepare for Jesus return?

Session Eight: Real vs. Counterfeit

Central Bible Truth: You can spot the difference between the real thing and a counterfeit.

Focal Passage: I John 2:24-29

Outline:

1. The Person Who Is Real. (vv.24-25)
2. The Person Who Is Counterfeit. (vv.26-27)
3. The Person Who Gets The Last Word – Christ. (vv.28-29)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to know the truth for yourself?
2. What should you do if a teacher or pastor teaches something that is contrary to the Bible?

Session Nine: Adoption vs. Being Alone

Central Bible Truth: God shows how much He loves us by inviting us to be His children.

Focal Passage: I John 3:1-3

Outline:

1. The Privilege Of Being God's Children (v.1)
2. The Power Of Being God's Children (v.1)
3. The Permanence Of Being God's Children (v.1)
4. The Price Of Being God's Children. (v.1)
5. The Purpose Of Being God's Children. (v.2)
6. The Purity of God's Children. (v.3)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Who does God consider His children?
2. What is the benefit of knowing God as your heavenly father?

Session Ten: Disqualification vs. Victory

Central Bible Truth: Doing whatever sin we want to do does not lead to freedom; it leads to disqualification.

Focal Passage: I John 3:4-10

Outline:

1. The Contender: Lawlessness (v.4)
2. The Champ: Christ (v.5)
3. The Disqualification: Keeping On Sinning (v.6)
4. The Victory: Being Born Of God. (vv.7-10)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to want to honor God and not sin?
2. Why is it so important to flee sin before it takes hold of you?

Session Eleven: Love vs. Hate

Central Bible Truth: Whether we love or hate our brother says a lot about us.

Focal Passage: I John 3:11-18

Outline:

Hate

1. The Action Of Hate (vv.11-12)
2. The Attitude Of Hate (vv.13-15)

Love

1. The Attitude Of Love (v.16)
2. The Action Of Love (v.17-18)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is hate so dangerous?
2. How can you overcome hate with love?

Session Twelve: Condemnation vs. Confidence

Central Bible Truth: We can find confidence in our relationship with Christ and ignore the feelings of guilt and condemnation.

Focal Passage: I John 3:18-24

Outline:

Condemnation

1. A Life Of Condemnation Often Begins In The Heart (vv.19-20a)
2. A Life Of Condemnation Is A Lie (v.20b)

Confidence

1. A Life Of Confidence Gives Us A Clear Picture Of Who God Is. (vv.20-21)
2. A Life Of Confidence Helps Us Ask God For What We Need. (v.22a)
3. A Life Of Confidence Obeys God and Pleases Him. (v.22b)
4. A Life Of Confidence Is A Life Of Love. (vv. 23-24)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it easier sometimes to feel more condemned than confident before God?
2. How can you overcome feeling of condemnation?

Session Thirteen: True vs. False

Central Bible Truth: We must test what is going on around us to see what is true and what is false.

Focal Passage: I John 4:1-6

Outline:

1. Everything Around Us Is Not Innocent. (v.1)
2. There Is Only One True Test. (vv.2-3)
3. Truth Will Always Overcome What Is False. (vv. 4-6)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it not safe to be too trusting of everything you hear?
2. What is the best way to test the validity of any truth claim?

Session Fourteen: Assurance vs. Doubt

Central Bible Truth: God wants you to be sure about your relationship with Him.

Focal Passage: I John 4:7-21

Outline:

1. We Can Be Sure That We Are Christians By Our Love. (vv.7-12)
2. We Can Be Sure That We Are Christians Through The Holy Spirit. (vv.13-16)
3. We Can Be Sure That We Are Christians By Obeying God. (vv.17-21)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Is it a sin to have doubts?
2. What is the best way to gain assurance over doubts?

Session Fifteen: Overcoming vs. Failing

Central Bible Truth: God will help us overcome anything that Life throws at us.

Focal Passage: I John 5:1-12

Outline:

1. To Overcome You Must Love God. (vv.1-4)
2. To Overcome You Must Believe In God. (vv.5-10)
3. To Overcome You Must Have An Eternal Perspective. (vv.11-12)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it so easy to feel overwhelmed instead of victorious in life?
2. How can you overcome the problems that life throws at you?

Session Sixteen: Good vs. Evil

Central Bible Truth: We are all in a spiritual fight; you can choose to ignore it, survive it, or be victorious.

Focal Passage: I John 5:13-18

Outline:

1. Ask For Help. (vv.13-15)
2. Fight For Others. (vv.16-17)
3. Remember Whose Side You Are On. (vv.18-20)
4. Fight Only For The Truth. (v.21)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why does victory always come with a price?
2. What is the value of paying the price for victory over living in spiritual defeat?