

# ST. JOHN

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## THE LESSON: 1 JOHN 1+4

St. John and his brother St. James were young fishermen repairing their father’s nets on the shores of the Sea of Galilee when Jesus called them and they made the life-changing decision to follow him. Over the next few years, St. John would watch and listen as Jesus taught and healed many. He was one of a handful of disciples who were present at the Transfiguration and in Gethsemane to witness both the glory and the grief of our Saviour.

St. John is sometimes called the “beloved disciple”. He understood that God’s love was central to why Jesus came. He had experienced this love and he wanted others to experience it as well. Tradition tells us that St. John, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote the Gospel of St. John, the three epistles of St. John and the Revelation of St. John. It is St. John’s Gospel that gives us the well-known verse, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

St. John’s Gospel also records for us that while Jesus hung on the cross, the beloved disciple was there, grieving with the faithful women disciples. Jesus then looked down and gave St. John and St. Mary to one another as son and mother, a sign of his love and care for them both. St. John took his newly adopted mother into his home, and went on to minister to the church in Ephesus. Some of the early Church writers have recorded stories about him and his sayings, providing us with a link between the New Testament scriptures and the history of the Church as it continued to grow and bear fruit.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

*“Therefore, my brother, who would learn to abide in Jesus, take time each day, ere you read, and while you read, and after you read, to put yourself into living contact with the living Jesus, to yield yourself distinctly and consciously to His blessed influence; so will you give Him the opportunity of taking hold of you, of drawing you up and keeping your safe in His almighty life.” - Andrew Murray, “Abide in Christ”*

Spend some time each day for the first half of the week reflecting on God’s love for you. Just sit quietly and reflect on his love and consider how you can “abide” in that love more fully. During the second half of the week, spend some time each day reflecting on your posture towards your sibling-believers: is it loving? Ask God to help you to love them the way he loves both you – and them. (Don’t try to do both reflections each day because chances are you’ll end up skipping right to the second item without really allowing the first to sink in).

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through the following collect.

*Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it being enlightened by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PAGE 110)

# ST. JOHN

## 1 JOHN 1+4: **ABIDE IN HIS LOVE**

**1** <sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete...

**4** <sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup>By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgement, because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>If anyone says, "I love God", and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup>And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.