

Group Leader Guide

1 John – part 5 “Family Likeness”

Sermon Recap

Have you ever wondered what it means to truly look like your heavenly Father? In this powerful message, Pastor Chris unveils the transformative truth of family resemblance through 1 John 3, where just as children mirror their parents' features, believers are called to reflect Christ's character. Through vivid examples—from matching baby photos to spiritual DNA—he reveals how God's love doesn't just change our status but our very nature. While we may struggle with sin, our new identity in Christ empowers real transformation. Don't miss this encouraging exploration of authentic Christian living that will help you recognize the divine family traits growing in your own life.

Ice Breaker

If you could instantly become an expert in any field or hobby just for fun, what would you choose and why?

Discussion Questions

1. What from the sermon stood out to you? How were you challenged, motivated, or convicted from what you heard?
2. In 1 John 3:1-3, John talks about how we will be like Christ when He appears. How does this future promise impact how we should live our lives today?
 - a. The sermon emphasizes that our future identity shapes our present activity - because we know what we will become, we begin becoming it right now.
 - b. What specific changes have you made in your life knowing that you are called to reflect Christ's character?
3. Pastor Chris explains that sin is lawlessness, deceptive, and demonic. Why is it important to understand these three aspects of sin's nature?
 - a. The sermon describes sin as defiance against God's law, warns about deception regarding sin's seriousness, and connects sin to Satan's influence.
 - b. In what areas of your life have you noticed yourself trying to minimize or justify sin?
4. How does the sermon challenge the idea that 'since we're saved by grace, it doesn't matter how we live'?
 - a. The sermon references Titus 2:11-12 to show that grace and holiness are connected - grace brings both salvation and instruction for godly living.
 - b. How has God's grace in your life motivated you to pursue holiness rather than excuse sin?
5. The sermon states that the question isn't 'Are you perfect?' but rather 'Are you making progress?' What's the significance of this distinction for Christians?

- a. Pastor Chris explains that salvation doesn't produce sinless perfection but creates a new direction and desire to grow more like Christ.
 - b. What evidence of spiritual progress can you identify in your life over the past year?
6. Why does Pastor Chris emphasize that various struggles (alcohol, anger, porn) are ultimately 'Jesus problems' rather than behavior problems?
 - a. The sermon concludes that transformation comes through the Father's love for us in Jesus and our loving Him back - it's about relationship, not just behavior modification.
 - b. How might viewing your struggles as 'Jesus problems' change your approach to overcoming them?

Prayer

- Ask if any group members have specific prayer requests.
- Pray for strength to recognize and resist sin as a defiance against God.
- Ask God for transformation through His love, helping us to grow in righteousness and love.
- Pray for the grace to identify and move away from any patterns of deception and temptation.