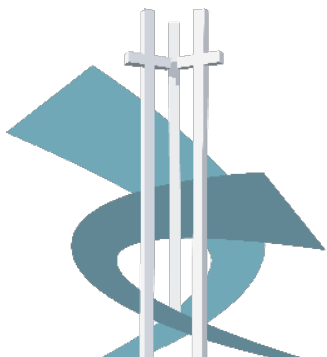


Vital Signs

The Indicators of Spiritual Life

DVD series & workbook




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Vital Signs

Dear Friend,

Thank you for picking up this DVD series and workbook entitled, "Vital Signs."

Can I ask you a few personal questions?

Is it possible to know for sure, without a doubt, that you personally have eternal life?

Is it possible to know if your son or daughter or someone you care about is a Christian?

Have you ever thought about dating someone, but first you wanted to know for sure if that person was truly saved?

Have you ever had someone tell you they are a Christian, but you kind of wondered if that is the case?

The real issue: How do you know if someone is saved, is a Christian, has eternal life?

Wouldn't it be great if there was a book in the Bible that would tell us how to know for sure if someone has eternal life?

Listen to the stated purpose of the book of 1 John.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

The apostle John wrote the entire book of 1 John to provide for us what I call, "The Indicators of Spiritual Life."

How do you know if you possess physical life? Check out your physical vital signs, such as your pulse, breathing, skin color, etc.

How do you know if you possess spiritual life? Check out your spiritual vital signs. Guess what? The apostle John provides for us 13 distinct spiritual vital signs that are true of all genuine believers who have eternal life.

Imagine how your life will be different once you know these 13 spiritual vital signs? You will have a far greater confidence about your own salvation and you will know what to look for to determine if someone else is saved as well.

It's my prayer that God will use this verse-by-verse series through the book of 1 John to help you KNOW you have eternal life.

Whether you will be listening to this material for personal edification or in a small group setting, I would recommend incorporating the following:

1. Read/discuss the introductory questions and pray before you watch a DVD.
2. Watch the DVDs in the order in which they are presented.
3. Take notes as you go along on what most impacts your life! You will also want to fill in the blanks. (Answers to all fill in the blanks are located at the end of the study)
4. Discuss the various discussion questions that are designed to help you understand the vital signs. This study features questions before, during and after the teaching. To discuss questions during Mark's teaching simply hit "Pause."

Welcome to Vital Signs!

It's my prayer that the Lord will richly bless your life as you learn the 13 indicators of spiritual life!

Dr. Mark Teyler

“The Indicator of Fellowship”

--1 John 1:1-4--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Can you tell about a time when you witnessed emergency medical professionals working on someone—identifying the person’s vital signs?
2. What are the vital signs that indicate a person is physically alive?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch “Vital Sign #1”

Key verse: _____

Theme: Vital Signs--The _____ of spiritual life.

“By their fruit you will recognize them.” Matthew 7:16

Vital Sign #1 _____

1 John 1:1-4

Genesis 1:26-2:2

Genesis 2:16-17

Genesis 3:6-10

Genesis 3:23-24

Two _____ of fellowship

- _____ fellowship with God.

“God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.” 1 Corinthians 1:9

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
2 Corinthians 13:14

“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous to bring you to God.” 1 Peter 3:18

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

- _____ fellowship with other believers.

“Yet to all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

Acts 2:42-47

Discussion: Can you share about the _____ you have experienced in fellowship with _____ and with other _____?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

Two benefits from our study of 1 John

- _____!
- _____!

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. What is one new truth you learned about the doctrine of fellowship?
3. Why is fellowship amazing, incredible and miraculous?
4. Can you share about when you first began to experience fellowship with God?
5. Can you share about when you first began to experience fellowship with other believers?
6. What to you is most attractive about Acts 2:42-47?
7. What does it mean that eternal life is both a quantity of life but also a quality of life?
8. Why is fellowship the first indicator of spiritual or eternal life?
9. How has this message given you a greater assurance or confidence of your salvation?
10. In what way do you need prayer in light of this message?

“The Indicator of Walking in the Light”

--1 John 1:5-2:2--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Can you share about one of the most memorable walks you have ever taken?
2. Can you share your most memorable experience you've had with either light or darkness?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch “Vital Sign #2”

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Definition: Walking in the light is a _____ of living close to the light (Jesus) and staying far from the darkness (sin).

5 Facts About Walking in the Light:

1. It's motivated by the _____ of God! 5

“I am the light of the world.” John 8:12

“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.”
Ephesians 5:8

“You are the light of the world.” Matthew 5:14

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” Colossians 1:13

2. It's denied if we walk in the _____! 6

John 3:16, 19-20

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth and find out what pleases the Lord." Ephesians 5:8-10

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. It's validated as we walk in the light, like _____! 7

4. It's confirmed as we confess our _____! 8-10

"No, you shall never wash my feet." Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well." Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean." John 13:8-10

5. It's upheld by the amazing _____ ministry of Jesus!
2:1-2

"For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down." Revelation 12:10

Discussion: How are you _____ walking in the light?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. What is one new truth you learned about the teaching of walking in the light?
3. Can you share about when you first began to experience walking in the light?
4. Of the five facts about walking in the light, which one to you is most significant and why?
5. Why should Christians continually confess their sins? If they don't, what is that saying about how they view sin or view themselves?
6. How does it make you feel that Jesus is your defense attorney?
7. Why is walking in the light an indicator of spiritual or eternal life?
8. How has this message given you a greater assurance or confidence of your salvation?

The Indicator of Christlikeness

1 John 2:3-11

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD:

1. Can you share about one person who you believe is an example of Christlikeness and why?
2. Can you share one way you are becoming more like Jesus?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch “Vital Signs #3”

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.” Romans 8:29

Three Facts About Christlikeness

1. Christlikeness is _____ God as Jesus did. 3-5a

“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” John 6:38

“I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.” John 14:31

“Yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 22:42

Three Observations about Obedience:

- Obedience leads to _____! 3

- Disobedience leads to _____! 4

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” James 2:26

- Obedience leads to _____! 5

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Discussion: Can you share one way you find yourself _____
God like Jesus did?

2. Christlikeness is _____ as Jesus did. 5b-6

Five ways Jesus walked:

- Jesus _____.

Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12; Luke 11:1, Matthew 6:9; Matthew 14:19;
John 17; Matthew 26:36.

- Jesus _____.

Mark 1:38; Luke 4:18, Matthew 5-7; Luke 23:43.

- Jesus _____.

Matt 9:36; Mark 1:41; John 5:5, 8, 9.

- Jesus _____.

Mark 10:45

- Jesus _____.

Luke 23:34

Discussion: Can you share one way you find yourself _____ as Jesus did?

3. Christlikeness is _____ others as Jesus did. 7-11

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Leviticus 19:18

How is the old command to love one another new?

- Its truth is seen in him— _____!

John 13:1-5; 13-15; 33-35

- Its truth is seen in you-- _____!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 5:22-23

“God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” Romans 5:5

Discussion: Can you share one way you find yourself _____ others as Jesus did?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Do you agree with Batterson when he says, “Most people in most churches think they are following Jesus, but I think they have invited Jesus to follow them.”
3. If you knew you had one night left to live, how would you spend it?
4. What moved you from the story of Pastor Robert Smith?
5. Why does obeying like Jesus obeyed or walking like Jesus walked or loving like Jesus loved give us confidence of our salvation?
6. How is the command to love one another new in you? How is the darkness of hate turning to the light of love?
7. How has this message given you a greater assurance or confidence of your salvation?

The Indicator of Spiritual Growth

--1 John 2:12-14--

Questions to discuss before watching:

1. Can you share one of your most embarrassing moments growing up?
2. Can you share one way you see yourself growing spiritually?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #4"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"By their fruit you will recognize them." Matthew 7:16

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

"Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:16

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

Three Stages of Spiritual Growth

1. Stage one: _____

“No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
John 3:3

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision, or a husband’s will, but born of God.” John 1:12-13

How do you know if you are a child?

- You are _____.

“If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” Matthew 18:6

- Your sins have been _____.

1 John 1:8-9; 2:1-2

“We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:14

- You realize this is due to his _____.

1 John 4:19

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians 1:3-5

- You _____ the Father.

“My sheep know me.” John 14:14

Discussion: How have you _____ these spiritual traits?

2. Stage two: _____

“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.” 1 Corinthians 13:11

“Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.” Hebrews 6:1

How do you know if you’ve grown into a spiritual youth?

- You have _____ the evil one.

“It is written...It is written...It is written.” Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psalm 119: 9, 11

- You are _____.

Ephesians 6:10-18

- The Word of God _____ in you.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

“When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight.” Jeremiah 15:16

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”
John 14:23

Discussion: How have you _____ these spiritual traits?

Stage 3: _____.

How do you know you’ve grown into a spiritual adult or father?

- You _____ him.

Philippians 3:8-11

-
- You have known _____.

“I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12

- You have know him who is from the _____.

“Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

Psalms 90:2

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” Philippians 3:10

Colossians 1:15-20

Colossians 3:1-3

Hebrews 1:1-4

Revelation 19:11-16

Discussion: How have you _____ these spiritual traits?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Why is spiritual growth an indicator or vital sign of eternal life?
3. What do you say to a person who claims to be a Christian, but manifest no spiritual growth?
4. Where do you most see yourself in the three stages of spiritual growth? Do you see yourself mostly as a spiritual child, spiritual youth or spiritual adult? Why?

5. What trait describing a spiritual child, spiritual youth and spiritual adult do you most want to grow in?

6. What has been the biggest contributor to your spiritual growth?

7. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?

8. Where do you most need prayer when it comes to your spiritual growth?

The Indicator of Loving Not The World

--1 John 2:15-17--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD:

1. Can you share one of the most beautiful places in this world you have seen with your own eyes?
2. What is one place in the world that you haven't visited yet, but you want to in your lifetime?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #5"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"Live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear." 1 Peter 1:17

Five Reasons Why Christians Love Not the World:

1. Loving not the world is _____ by God. 15a

"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" Luke 9:23

"For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me."
2 Timothy 4:10

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matthew 22:37

2. Loving the world is _____ to our new nature. 15b

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” James 4:4

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world, rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

3. The world’s ways are _____ the ways of God! 16

John 15:18-19

Three Characteristics of Worldliness:

- The _____ of sinful man will dominate.

I John 3:9

- The _____ of the eyes will rule.

I John 3:6

- The _____ of what one has or does will reign.

Proverbs 6:17

4. The world is _____ away.

- The world doesn't _____—it leaves people empty.

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:13-14

- The world is _____ out—a new kingdom is coming.

2 Peter 3:10-14

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Matthew 6:19-20

“I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But the things I have placed in God's hands I still possess.”

Martin Luther

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

- 5. Loving not the world is God's _____.

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” Luke 9:23

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Discussion: Can you share about your _____ of being in the world, but not loving it?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Before you were a Christian, how was your old nature worldly? How was verse 16 true of your life?
3. Why is loving NOT the world a vital sign of eternal life?
4. What is the difference between being influenced by this world and being dominated or ruled by this world?
5. How have you experienced that this world doesn't satisfy?
6. Do you believe that this world is literally passing away and a new kingdom is coming?
7. How is God teaching you to store up for yourselves treasures in heaven?
8. What did Jim Elliot mean when he said, “He is no fool who give up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose?”
9. What is the number one thing God wants to teach you about living in this world, but not being part of it?
10. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?

The Indicator of the Holy Spirit's Anointing

--1 John 2:18-27--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD:

1. When did you first begin to learn about the Holy Spirit?
2. Can you share the most significant truth you know about the Holy Spirit?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #6"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

Three _____ about the Holy Spirit's anointing:

1. The Holy Spirit causes us to _____ faithful. 2:18-19

2 Thessalonians 2:3-8

"He who stands firm to the end will be saved." Mark 13:13

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:26-27

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35, 38-39

“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—the only God our Savior be glory...” Jude 24

Discussion: How has the Holy Spirit given you the grace and power to _____ faithful?

2. The Holy Spirit causes us to know the _____ about Jesus. 2:20-25

“When he, the Holy Spirit, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13

Discussion: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit helping you to know the _____ about Jesus?

3. The Holy Spirit teaches us about _____. 2:26-27

John 14-16

1 John 3:24

Discussion: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit teaching you about _____?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. What is one truth you learned that is new about the Holy Spirit?
3. Why is the anointing of the Holy Spirit a vital sign indicating we possess eternal life?
4. How have you experienced the baloney detector going off in your heart?
5. How have you experienced the affirmation detector going off in your heart?
6. How do you most often feel the tug of the Holy Spirit in your life?
7. What does it mean to quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) or to grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)?
8. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?
9. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of a Purifying Hope

--1 John 2:28-3:3--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Can you share about a time when you hoped for something and it came true?
2. Where do most people find their hope?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #7"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."
Hebrews 6:19

"By faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope." Galatians 5:5

"He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade." 1 Peter 1:3

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Definition: A purifying hope is the hope that one day we will be made fully like _____, this hope _____ us to become more and more like Jesus in this life—and this prompting comes from the _____ who indwells us!

Three Facts About a Believers Purifying Hope:

1. This hope moves us to _____ in him! 2:28

Matthew 7:21-23

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” Revelation 22:12

“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Discussion: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit’s promptings to continue _____ in Christ?

2. This hope moves us to do what is _____! 2:29

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Titus 2:11-14

Discussion: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's promptings to do what is _____?

3. This hope moves us to be more like _____! 3:1-3

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” John 1:12-13

1 Peter 2:11

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; but then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

1 Corinthians 15:42-58

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” Philippians 3:21

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.” Romans 8:29

“Dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.” 2 Peter 3:10-12

Discussion: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit’s promptings to be more like _____?

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”
Hebrews 6:19

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. What would you do if you knew Jesus would return in 24 hours?
3. Right now we are children of God, but can you describe what we will be?

4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. How can you encourage each other with these words?

5. What is the greatest way you experience the purifying hope?

6. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?

7. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of Doing What is Right

--1 John 3:4-10--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Can you share about a humorous moment when you tried to do what was right, but it turned out all wrong?
2. What person has taught you the most about doing what is right?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #8"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

1 John 2:5b-6

Two Reasons Why Christians Do What Is Right:

1. We do what is right because of Jesus' ongoing _____ in our lives! 4-6

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."
John 1:29

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Discussion: How is Jesus making an ongoing _____
in your life?

2. We do what is right because we are _____! 7-10

John 8:42-47

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” Galatians 5:1

“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

1 Peter 1:23

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:10

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.” Galatians 5:24

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness.” 2 Peter 1:3

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 5:19-21

What will a child of God look like?

Galatians 5:22-23

Discussion: How did your life _____ when you became a child of God

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Sin is lawlessness. When you didn't know Christ, how were you lawless and where do you struggle with lawlessness today as a Christian?
3. We do what is right because of Jesus' ongoing work in our lives. How would you describe Jesus' ongoing work in your life in taking away your sin?
4. According to 1 John you are a Saint or an Aint, a believer or an unbeliever, a child of God or a child of the devil. How do you see this being true with the people you know?
5. We do what is right because we are no longer who we used to be—we are born again as Christians. What is metamorphosis? How is being born again like metamorphosis? What changed and is continuing to change in your life?

6. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?

7. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of Loving Like Jesus

--1 John 3:11-24--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. When did someone demonstrate to you a Christ-like example of love?
2. What person to you is a good example of Christ-like love?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #9"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35

"God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:5

Four Reasons Why Christians Love Like Jesus:

1. We love like Jesus because it is the _____ message of Christianity. 11

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one-another." John 13:34-35

Discussion: What does loving like Jesus _____ like?

2. We love like Jesus because we've been given a new loving _____! 12-15

"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Psalm 51:5

"God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:5

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion: Can you share how becoming a Christian transformed your Cain nature into a loving nature and you started to love like _____ loved?

3. We love like Jesus because of Jesus' loving _____.
16-18

(1) We lay down our _____ for others.

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 13:13

(2) We lay down our _____ for others in need.

(3) We lay down love in _____, not just in words.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Discussion: How are you finding yourself loving others in these _____ following Jesus' example?

4. We love like Jesus because of the _____ we receive.
19-24

(1) Your heart will not _____ you.

(2) You will have _____ before God.

(3) You will experience answered _____.

(4) You will experience the Holy Spirit's _____.

Discussion: How have you _____ these benefits that come when we love like Jesus loved?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson:

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Read Romans 5:5 and how have you experienced God pouring out his love into your heart by the Holy Spirit?
3. Do you remember a time in your life when it really hit you that Jesus loved you so much that he died for YOU?
4. Has someone ever helped you out materially or financially when you were in need and how did that impact you?
5. What are some of the practical ways we can show love in action, not just in words?
6. What is the connection between loving others like Jesus did and answered prayer?
7. What does it mean, “love lived out banishes self-condemnation?”
8. What was the key principle revealed in this message about how to have confidence before God about your salvation?
9. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?
10. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of Testing the Spirits

--1 John 4:1-6--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Who is the best school teacher you ever had and why?
2. When you hear the phrase, "Testing The Spirits," what's the first thing that comes to mind?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #10"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth." John 16:13

Definition: Testing the Spirits is the spiritual act of _____ if a teacher or a teaching is from _____ or not.

Three Reasons Why Christians Test The Spirits:

1. We test the spirits because we are warned that not every spirit or teaching is of _____. 4:1a

I Kings 22:19-23

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Matthew 7:15

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil.” Ephesians 6:12

“The Spirit clearly says that in the later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.” 1 Timothy 4:1-2

“Test everything. Hold on to the good.” 1 Thessalonians 5:21

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” Acts 17:11

2. We test the spirits because many _____ prophets are in the world! 4:1b

“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.” Matthew 24:24

Acts 20:28-31a

2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-19

3. We test the spirits because God has told us _____!
4:2-6

(1) The _____ test: Does the teacher acknowledge that Jesus is _____ in _____ flesh?

(2) The _____ test: Does the teacher have the _____ listening to and agree with them? 4-5

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.” Luke 6:4

“He leads the whole world astray.” Revelation 12:9

2 Timothy 4:2-4

(3) The _____ test: Does the teacher reject _____ teaching and teachers? 6

Revelation 22:18-19

Discussion: Which of the three tests do you find most _____ for discerning if a teacher is of God or not?

1 Corinthians 2:12, 14

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. Do you know of someone who has been taken in by a false teacher or false teaching?
3. When was the last time you believe you heard teaching that was from a spirit that was not of God or when was the last time your baloney detector starting to go off?
4. What are the implications to the fact that behind every speaker is a spirit and that the spirit is either holy or unholy?
5. Have there been times in your life when you have used the three tests to determine if a teacher or spirit is of God?
6. Why are all religions not the same?
7. Why is testing the spirits a spiritual indicator of eternal life?
8. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?
9. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of Loving Others

--1 John 4:7-21--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Who was the first person you had puppy love for?
2. Can you share a special moment when someone reached out and showed you the love of God?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #11"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

"God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." Romans 5:5

"By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one-another." John 13:35

5 Reasons Why Christians Love Others:

1. We love others because love _____ from God. 4:7a
2. We love others because we have been _____ of God. 4:7b-8

Ezekiel 37:1-10, 14

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. We love others because of Jesus' _____ of love. 4:9-12

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (John 3:16)

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.” Ephesians 5:1-2

4. We love others because it leads to spiritual _____.
4:13-18

“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:31

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”
2 Timothy 4:8

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

5. We love others because God _____ loved us. 4:19-21

“The fruit of the Spirit is love...” Galatians 5:22-23

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:3

Discussion: Of the five reasons believers love others, which reason most _____ your love for others?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. How were you most like dry bones before Jesus' life came into your being?
3. What would your life be like if Jesus never loved you first?
4. Why is loving others such a strong indicator of eternal life?
5. Why is it necessary to be born again to live out Agape love?
6. How does Jesus' example on the cross move you?
7. How does loving others build our spiritual confidence?
8. What do you take away from the story Mark told about Scott?
9. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?
10. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of Belief

--1 John 5:1-12--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Other than God, what else do you believe in?
2. When was the first time you remember believing in God?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch “Vital Sign #12”

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

3 Reasons Why All Christians Believe in Jesus:

1. Belief in Jesus is the bi-product of being _____ of God. 5:1-3

“He chose to give us birth.” James 1:18

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5

“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

Discussion: How did your life _____ when you were given new life and believed in Jesus?

2. Belief in Jesus is the only way to _____ the world.
5:4-5

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57

Discussion: How did you begin _____ the world when you believed in Jesus?

3. Belief in Jesus is the only way to have God’s _____ in our heart. 5:6-12

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53: 5-6

“Surely, he was the Son of God.” Matthew 27:54

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.”
1 Corinthians 15:3

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.” Psalm 23:4

“Look, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” Acts 7:56

Discussion: How did you begin experiencing God’s _____ in your heart when you believed?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. How is physical birth a good picture of spiritual birth?
3. Why is believing in God a miracle?
4. How would you chart your pilgrimage in becoming an overcomer?
5. What is God’s testimony and how is God’s testimony growing stronger in your heart?
6. What do you take away from the story Mark told about Polycarp?

-
7. Do you believe you would be willing to die for your faith?
 8. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?
 9. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

The Indicator of Spiritual Confidence

--1 John 5:13-21--

Questions to discuss before watching the DVD

1. Can you share about a time when you were the least confident?
2. What has helped you gain a greater confidence?

Have someone read 1 John 5:13 and open in prayer.

Watch "Vital Sign #13"

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

5 Areas of Spiritual Confidence that are True of all Christians:

1. We have confidence in our _____ life! 5:13

Two ways a believer knows they have eternal life:

- The internal witness of the _____.

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:16

- The external evidence of spiritual _____.

Fellowship
Walking In The Light
Christlikeness

Spiritual Growth
Loving Not The World
The Holy Spirit's Anointing
A Purifying Hope
Doing What is Right
Loving Like Jesus
Testing of the Spirits
Loving One Another
Belief
Spiritual Confidence

2. We have confidence in answered _____! 5:14-17

Three Facts About a Believers' Confidence with Prayer:

- Believers have confidence in _____ God!

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens...let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:14, 16

- Believers have confidence that all prayer asked in God's will is heard and _____.

“Your will be done.” Matthew 6:10

- Believers have confidence to pray about a believer caught in a _____ except for an unbeliever caught up in the sin that leads to _____.

“My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” James 5:19-20

3. We have confidence in our spiritual _____ 5:18

- Jesus keeps us safe from _____.

3:8-9

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

- Jesus keeps us safe from the _____.

4:4

Job 1:6-12

4. We have confidence in our _____ 5:19

- In this world—we see ourselves as a _____ of God.

2:15, 17

- The rest of the world is under the control of the _____.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
Matthew 9:36

5. We have confidence in our _____ . 5:20-21

5:12

Discussion: Of the five areas of spiritual confidence, which one are you most thankful?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless of course, you fail the test.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Questions to discuss after the lesson

1. What most impacted you from the teaching?
2. How would you describe your confidence about your own eternal life?
3. How have you personally experienced the two ways to know you have eternal life?
4. How would you describe your confidence with approaching God in prayer?
5. How would you describe your confidence that all prayer asked in God's will gets heard and answered?

6. How would you describe your confidence regarding your spiritual protection? Do you believe Jesus protects you from temptation and from the devil?
7. Do you confidently see yourself as a child of God and the world as under the control of the devil?
8. How is the world-view of a Christian different than that of a non-Christian?
9. How confident are you that a big part of your purpose on earth is to know God and to make God known?
10. How is a believer's purpose different than an unbeliever's purpose?
11. How has this message given you a greater assurance and confidence of your salvation?
12. Where do you most need prayer in light of this message?

ANSWER KEY FOR FILL IN THE BLANKS

Vital Sign #1: I John 5:13; indicators; Fellowship; Vertical; Horizontal; joy; God; believers; Assurance; Life

Vital Sign #2: pattern; character; darkness; Jesus; sins; intercessory; experiencing;

Vital Sign #3: obeying; confidence; doubt; completeness; obeying; walking; prayed; preached; cared; gave; forgave; walking; loving; Jesus; Christian; loving

Vital Sign #4: Child; dear; forgiven; name; know; experienced; Youth; overcome; strong; lives; experienced; Adult; know; him; beginning; experienced

Vital Sign #5: commanded; antithetical; opposite; cravings; lust; boasting; passing; satisfy; phasing; will; experience

Vital Sign #6: realities; remain; remain; truth; truth; all things; all things;

Vital Sign #7: Jesus; moves; Holy Spirit; continue; abiding; right; right; Jesus; Jesus

Vital Sign #8: work; difference; God's child; change

Vital Sign #9: core; look; nature; Jesus; example; lives; material possessions; actions; ways; benefits; condemn; confidence; prayer; affirmation; experienced

Vital Sign #10: discerning; God; God; false; how; doctrinal; God; human; popularity; world; Bible; true; helpful

ANSWER KEY

Vital Sign #11: originates; born; example; confidence; first; explains

Vital Sign #12: born; change; overcome; overcoming; testimony; testimony

Vital Sign #13: eternal; Holy Spirit; vital signs; prayer; approaching; answered; sin; death; protection; ongoing sin; devil; world-view; child; devil; purpose