



Sermon Discussion Guide
1 John: Searching for Certainty
1 John 2:18-27
Ronnie Garcia, October 6, 2019

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. The passage had a lot of Christian trigger words with complex meanings like, “antichrist,” “last hour,” or “anointing.” What are some of your experiences with those concepts?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

DOCTRINE IS INEVITABLE AND INESCAPABLE

1. Ronnie contrasted the difference between “hard power” and “soft power”. When the serpent wanted to really hurt Adam and Eve, he did not come at them with a sword, he came at them with an idea. How might this help us to understand why the Apostle John (using words like “liar” and “antichrist”) is so stern towards the false teachers?
2. What are some of the competing notions of truth that exist in our culture? How has culture’s concept of truth changed over time? How could a different version of truth completely undercut the Truth of the gospel?

DOCTRINE IS NOT SOMETHING YOU DO WITH YOUR BRAIN

1. Biblically speaking, “knowing” always included the heart. But over time, knowing was understood that was completely detached from commitment. If “knowing” Jesus means that he presses into your life, what is one thing that would change in your life?
2. Knowledge of Jesus means that the “anointing” of the Spirit is upon us. This critiques two extremes: 1) that knowing facts about God is the same as faith; and 2) having emotions towards Jesus without knowledge is sufficient. Which extreme do you need to be more careful with?

Step 3: Final Reflections

1. Ronnie explained that having certainty and assurance of God's love is a very unpopular idea in our society. And yet, the Apostle John wants us to know that we have eternal life (cf. v25). Why is certainty in God's love the fruit of humility instead of arrogance?
2. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
3. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?