



Sermon Discussion Guide
1 John: Searching for Certainty
1 John 2:28-3:10
Jeff Heiser, October 13, 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. Talk about your experience of assurance of salvation. Are there things in your life that cause you to doubt your salvation?
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?

THE FATHER (vv. 28, 1)

1. John assures his readers that they are children of God. What are some of the consequences of God being our Father?
2. The reflection quote from this week's bulletin was by J. I. Packer in his book *Knowing God*. He says, "Christians may act like the prodigal, but God will not cease to act like the prodigal's father." How does quote affect the way you understand your relationship with God?

THE CHILDREN (vv. 29, 2-10)

1. Jeff spoke about the theological concept of the already and the not yet. In your own words, what is the already and the not yet? How does it provide hope to the struggling Christian?
2. Read v. 10. What do our actions tell us about where our identity is found? Why is it that God's unconditional love doesn't just let us live licentious lives?

Step 3: Final Reflections

1. How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
2. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?