



Sermon Discussion Guide

1 John: Searching for Certainty

1 John 5:1-5

Ronnie Garcia, November 10, 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. Ronnie told a story of a man who sold his land, later to find that there were millions of dollars of oil hidden beneath—money that would have been life-changing. The Apostle John believes that being “born of God” is incomparably more life-changing? Do you agree? Where do you find your self-understanding?
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?

WHAT IS “BORN OF GOD”? (vv. 1, 4)

1. John references the idea of being “born of God” which can be very confusing. It was even confusing for Nicodemus when Jesus told him that he must be “born again.” (cf. John 3) What has been your experience of people who identify as “born-again” or “born of God”? Do you see this term as a kind of Christian? Or as Christianity itself?

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE ARE “BORN OF GOD”? (vv. 2-3)

1. John describes a few evidences of people who are “born of God.” While John says that God’s commandments should not be burdensome, they often feel like it. How can your vision and understanding of God be the difference between his commandments feeling heavy or light? Have you ever thought about what it means to be yoked to Christ?

THE GIFT OF BEING “BORN OF GOD”? (vv. 4-5)

1. John references “our faith” as the victory of God. Ronnie cited the Westminster’s definition of faith; that is, resting upon and receiving Jesus. Why is this idea of faith both easy and hard?

Step 3: Final Reflections

1. Ronnie concluded with a story about a woman who set out to find her biological father, and discovered a whole new family who welcomed her in. At thanksgiving, she listened to their

stories, and those stories became her history—and it transformed her self-understanding. How is this a good metaphor for understanding that we are “born of God?”

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?