



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS SECURE

The BIG IDEA:

Just like a large rock is solid and inspires confidence, we can be confident that God is with us now and forever if we've trusted in Christ. Our relationship with him is secure.

The PROBLEM:

Without trusting in Christ's death and resurrection to save us, we will perish or be separated from God for all eternity. As genuine Christ-followers, we can also lack confidence in our relationship with God because we don't understand that it's rooted in Christ, not in our spiritual or religious performance..

Our RESPONSE:

We can trust that what God says is true; He says that once we place our faith in Him, He will never leave us.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TOPIC:

The author of 1 John writes this letter to followers of Christ who have become unsettled in their relationship with God. He wants to give us confidence in our relationship with Christ and help us understand that the basis of this confidence is Christ Himself.

The IMAGE:

This rock stands firm even as the waves crash upon it minute after minute and storms pummel it on a regular basis. Just as we can trust that that rock will stand firm, we can be confident in our relationship with Jesus. Even though we fail over and over again, our standing with God will never change if we are his.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

What I want the group to know and understand:

Their relationship with God is secure once they put their faith in Christ. They can never lose this relationship; they will be with God now and for all eternity.

What I want the group to experience: Confidence, peace, and joy, knowing that their relationship with God is secure and that He is with them now and forever.

How I want the group to respond: In confidence that their relationship with God is secure through faith in Jesus and with excitement that He is with them now and forever.

**LAUNCH**

David and Maria have been seeing each other for some time now. He has really been wondering if they have something special between them. They were supposed to meet for lunch, but Maria never showed up. As David was coming out of the restaurant, he noticed Maria across the street getting into a car with Michael, a classmate of hers. David just stood there with a thousand thoughts running through his head.

What impact does it have on a close relationship if you have doubts about whether the relationship would last, whether the other person is committed to you, or whether you're committed to the other person? How could similar doubts affect your relationship with God?

EXPLORE:**1. Read 1 John 5:10-14. What is a testimony (verses 10-11)?**

It's a statement about what someone has seen or heard. It's a statement about what is true.

2. Who is giving the testimony about the Son (verse 10)? Why is this significant?

God. It's significant that he gives the testimony because he's totally reliable. That means everything he says is reliable too.

3. What determines whether a person has eternal life (verse 12)?

Whether a person has the Son.

4. What do you think it means to have the Son (verse 12)? Do you have the Son? If so, when did this relationship begin?

Having the Son means trusting Him to rescue you from sin and death and be your leader. Having the Son ultimately means He has you. Through trusting in Jesus, you're now in a relationship with God that grows in this life and continues into eternity.

5. Why do you think verse 13 uses the word "know" instead of a word like "hope" to refer to confidence about having eternal life?

God wants us to be confident that we have eternal life based on having the Son, who did everything necessary through his death and resurrection to give us eternal life.

APPLY:**6. How does this passage grow your confidence in your relationship with God and in knowing that you'll be with him forever if you've placed your trust in Jesus?**

Allow the group to discuss.

7. How would it affect your relationship with God if you doubted His commitment to you? Have you ever experienced this?

Allow the group to discuss.

8. Read Hebrews 13:5 Think of a challenging situation you're facing right now. How does the truth of God's promises here help you face this challenge?

Allow the group to discuss. Hebrews 13:5 and this study as a whole give a basis for confidence in our relationship with God that's independent of our feelings, behavior, or performance. It's a confidence anchored in Jesus himself - His perfect performance on our behalf and His perfect sacrifice to provide forgiveness of our sins and eternal life.

9. Tonight as you lie down to rest, take time to thank God for his personal love for you and for the fact that you are forgiven and will spend your eternity with him in heaven.**GROWING DEEPER:**

Read John 17:3, John 10:27-32, and Romans 8:38-39. Ask God to use his Word to grow you in your relationship with him and increase