

Monday Evening Bible Reading Group: Notes for May/June

Just checking: *There are 3 Monday public holidays over the next few weeks. Are you happy with NOT MEETING on Easter Monday April 21st and the second May holiday (May 26th); but MEETING on May 5th??*

Monday May 12th: Host Toyin, Lead Andy. 1 John Chapter 1: Love and God are the key themes, and the two are one! Keep it simple. *The infinite life of God himself took place before us. We saw it. We heard it. Now we're telling you. God is light, pure light. Walk in the light. If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only kidding ourselves. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrong-doing.* Complete fellowship – not mystic contemplation, or casually trying to copy. Living reality, not evading reality. Paraclete/Advocate appears only here and in John's Gospel.

Light versus dark: How would we temper this message for blind people?

How did the Crucifixion heal us?

Sin versus Godliness: Does John get across his message that Godliness is about recognising and trying to avoid sin, not pretending to be without it?

Monday May 19th: Host Toyin, Lead Miranda. 1 John Chapter 2: *He solved the sin problem for good. Live the same kind of life Jesus lived. Love your brothers and sisters. Don't love the world's ways. Time is just about up. Anti-Christ's everywhere you look. No one who denies the Son has any part in the Father. Live deeply in Christ. All who practice righteousness are God's true children.* Resentment is bad for your health. We need some sense of urgency.

Are sinning Christians: can they exist?

Has the Devil been defeated?

Should the church exclude some people?

Does THE END matter?

How do we rate the person who lives a godly Life but doesn't do God?

Monday June 2nd: Host Toyin, Lead Evan. 1 John Chapter 3. *That's exactly what we are: children of God. And that is only the beginning. Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. It's the person who acts right who is right. The one who won't practice righteous ways isn't from God, nor is the one who won't love brother or sister. A simple test. Don't be surprised when the world hates you. Anyone who doesn't love is as good as dead.* The multi-purpose English word "love" is a bit of a problem? *Love sacrificially for our fellow believers. Love deeply.* Model Jesus love. Our good behaviour is a love response, not a law response.

Is the human Jesus plus divine Jesus a problem for you?

The one certainty about the next life is We shall see Him as He is.

Open heart is ready heart?

Difference between creation of God and child of God – are we in danger of separating ourselves from the rest of creation? Obligations not privilege??

What do you make of the Cain and Abel story?

Monday June 9th: Host David, Lead Peta: 1 John Chapter 4: *Don't believe everything you hear. Carefully weigh and examine what people tell you. The Son of God who came as an actual flesh and blood person. You came from God and belong to God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God. You can't know God if you don't love. HE'S GIVEN US LIFE FROM HIS LIFE. Loving God includes loving people. The very essence of God is love.*

Love God and fear God?

Can we marry the extremes?

Jesus was on earth for 33 years. How would we explain this to someone who says, "So God was incomplete for 33 years?"

If you have read the Narnia books, How close does Aslan get to Jesus?

Monday June 16th: Host David, Lead Hannah: 1 John Chapter 5: *If we love the one who conceives the child, we'll surely love the child who was conceived. [Not sure this translation works] Every God-born person conquers the world's ways. He experienced a life-giving - birth and death-killing death. God gave us eternal life: that life is in His Son. Sure that he's listening. There is such a thing as a fatal sin. This Jesus is both True God and Real Life.*

Are there unpardonable sins?

What is keeping the commandments in this context?

Can we rely on love and bin the rules?

How inclusive can a church be?

Is Heaven only for Christians?

What are the threats to Christianity today?