

Mental

Stingy Love

1 JOHN 5:7-13

SESSION 7.20



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Prepare several translations of the passage for use during the lesson (biblegateway.com is a good resource).
- Materials needed: strips of paper (2 inches x 6 inches), tape, pens
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.

☐ *Introduction*

Ask: What do you think of when you hear the term, "eternal life?" What does it mean?

Invite someone to read 1 John 5:7-13 out loud and show the *Bible Background Video*. Use the following questions to guide discussion.

☐ *Examine the Passage*

- Read verses 5-8. The first two verses might be difficult to understand. What do you think it means that Jesus came "by water and blood?"
- Some believe that by "water" John could be referring to Jesus' baptism. Others look at the story of Jesus death – have someone read John 19:31-36. What do you think?
- In any case, what point is John making about Jesus – who was he? Why does it matter to us that he really lived, died and rose from the dead?
- Why, according to John, can we believe what God says? And what do we receive when we believe and trust him?
- John says that we "have" the Son and "believe" the Son. But as we've discovered in the past, this kind of faith is not just a one-time action we do only with our minds. What does it mean to live in this belief?

☐ *Engage the Message*

- John does not say we "will have" eternal life – he speaks as if it is a reality we can live in now. Yet we often talk about eternal life as if it is something only useful after we die. Why do you think we usually think of it that way?

- What would it mean if "eternal life" were not just a length of life, but a different quality of life here?
- If death is not the end for us, how does that knowledge change the way we think of death? How could we face life differently if we are not afraid of death?
- How might we approach relationships differently? Our faith community? People outside our faith community?

☐ *Reflect*

How am I living "eternal life" today?

Close with prayer.

By Jon Parks

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