

**St. Johns' Baptist Church**  
**38-40 Everett Street, Woburn, MA.**  
**Rev. Dr. Larry Edmunds, Senior Pastor**  
**Rev. Dr. Neal E. Pearson, Associate Pastor**  
**Title: Study**  
**Facilitator: Linda J Austad**  
**Date: November 10, 2006**

**INTRODUCTION:** This is the second in a series of studies on what have come to be called the "Spiritual Disciplines". We have all heard that it is important to "study" our Bibles. What does this really mean? Study, is different from devotions. Study is a closer look into what the scriptures said to the original readers, and how that translates into what the scriptures say to us today. We are going to study a text tonight using a method that I have found useful.

**LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:11 - 5:1** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. <sup>13</sup> We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. <sup>17</sup> In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**MEMORY SCRIPTURE:**

**Psalms 119:11** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

## STEPS FOR STUDY:

1. Pick your passage for study.
  - a. You may decide to study a book of the Bible at a time.
  - b. You may decide to study a topic.
  - c. You may follow a pre-printed study guide
2. Check the background for the book you are studying
  - a. Who wrote it?
  - b. Who were they writing to?
  - c. When was it written?
  - d. Why was it written?
  - e. Where was it written? Where was it received?
  - f. What was going on at the time that impacted what was being said?
3. If time permits read the entire book of the Bible in one sitting.
4. Out-line the book for yourself.
5. Focus on the passage that you are studying.
  - a. Read the passage a couple of times, if possible in different versions of the Bible.
  - b. What words are repeated?
  - c. Are there any phrases or words that you don't understand?
  - d. As you read different translations does one translation make the verse more clear?
6. Application:
  - a. Is the original message directly transferable? In some instances it is, in others, like in the case of food sacrificed to idols there isn't a direct link. So you would ask, what in our society has the same significance as food sacrificed to idols?
  - b. Ask yourself, what is God saying to me in this text.

**Remember: Scripture can never mean what it never meant!**

## SUMMARY:

### QUESTION(S) FOR REFLECTION:

1. What is one thing I will do differently as a result of this lesson in I John?
2. What is one thing I will do differently in my personal Bible study time as a result of this overall lesson?

## Resources

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon D Fee & Douglas Stuart

How to Read the Bible Book by Book, Gordon D Fee & Douglas Stuart

Africa Bible Commentary, Tokunboh Adeyemo

Halley's Bible Handbook

Living Letters, From the Life Application Bible

Archaeological Study Bible - NIV

Study Bible for Women – NIV

Starting Point Study Bible – NIV

Key Word Study Bible – NASB

Harpers Study Bible – RSV

The Message Bible

The Living Bible

The Amplified Bible

What is our attitude toward God's word?

- When you miss a quite time – feel guilty?
- Do you feel guilty when you miss a meal? No! You feel hungry