

w/b 9th July 2017

THEME: LOVE, OBEDIENCE AND OVERCOMING - LIFE APPLICATION

1 John 5 verses 1-10 (NIV)

Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ For there are three that testify: ⁸ the^[a] Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. ⁹ We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

LAUNCH

Think about famous duos or groups from comedy or music or history that totally failed to get on. What was the source of their disagreement and what was the result?

Without going into detail what type of person do you find it hard to get on with? How could you go about understanding that type of person more?

UNDERSTANDING & APPLICATION

John makes a huge leap from loving God and Christ in verses 1 and 2 to loving each other. Why is he entitled to make that leap?

What are some of the warning signs from your own personal experience that you are not loving somebody enough?

What are some of the other passages or verses from the bible that instruct or command us to love one another? As you discuss them, how do they challenge you?

Why does John equate love with obedience and what is the relationship between these two qualities?

Would you agree that Christ's commands are burdensome or not? Why or why not? (verse 3)

Those who are born of God overcome the world. What does this mean especially in the context of a society that is predominantly non Christian?

John uses shorthand in saying that water, the blood and the Spirit work together in order to show that someone is a Christian. What are the key features of each of these 'elements' (bearing in mind that the Spirit is a person not an element) in revealing God's work in humanity?

1 John 5 11&12 is one of the key verses that the Navigators get new Christians to learn. Why is it a key verse? In what ways should this verse influence us in areas such as gratitude, witness and obedience?

APPLICATION

- Pray we will be more loving
- Pray we will be more obedient especially to the prompting of the Spirit
- Pray that we will overcome the world
- Pray that 1 John 5 11&12 will motivate us in our witness

(Calligraphy for God website very helpful in the setting of these questions)