



Week 2 // Infancy

In this Post-Easter series we explore the first Epistle written by Jesus' disciple John. This love-filled letter prompts us to explore five distinct stages of life in Christ: spiritual death, infancy, childhood, young adulthood, and reproducing parenthood. Learn to identify the stage of someone's spiritual growth based upon the key phrases they use. This series is sure to lead to self-reflection and greater growth toward spiritual maturity.

Connect

- 1) What is your earliest memory that you have? What was the significance of this memory or event? Why do you think it stands out to you still?

Digging Deeper

- 2) In this week, we are looking at the concept of Spiritual Infancy. What are some of the great things about a child, specifically an infant? How do you show love to an infant and how does an infant show love in return?
- 3) Why are young children so quick to express love? What happens, as they get older, to that expression? What factors are at play in this situation?

Open your Bibles (digital or physical) to 1 John. Have someone start by reading some background on the setting of this letter, the author, and to whom it was written. This context will help in understanding the text we will cover.

Read 1 John 2:1-6

- 4) Martin Luther would say that verse one should be, 'written with golden letters and should be painted in the heart.' Why is this verse so important and what implications can this make in the life of a Christian?
- 5) The next verses talk about how important keeping the commandments are. What do we learn about someone that disobeys the commandments? What do we learn about someone the keeps the commandments? How do these concepts match up with what it says in verse 1?
- 6) As we get older, our expressions of love can seem to lessen. From this section, why is it important for our life to be an expression of love? What should be the source of our love? How can we tell what the source of love is in ourselves?

Live It Out

- 7) Who in your life do you need to work to love (that is not a bad thing to admit)? What steps can you take this week to go out of your way to show love to them?

Lifting it up

As you take time to pray in your small group or throughout the week on your own, here are some ideas and concepts which may help focus your prayers.

- Thank God for the love displayed to you through our advocate, Jesus Christ.
- Pray for opportunities to live out of the love that was shown to you by our gracious God.
- Ask for focus as you look to live out of the grace given to you by God so that your life may reflect our faith.