



THE NEW
INDUCTIVE
STUDY SERIES

1, 2, 3 John/James/Philemon

God's Love *Alive* in You

KAY ARTHUR
DAVID LAWSON

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Alive
in You**

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The New Inductive Study Series

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Harvest House Books by Kay Arthur

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HOW TO GET STARTED...



FIRST

As you study the epistles of John and James, and Paul's epistle to Philemon, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible that you are willing to mark in. Marking is essential because it is an integral part of the learning process and will help you remember and retain what you learn. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB*, available in the New American Standard Version, comes in a single-column text format with larger, easy-to-read type, and is ideal for marking. The page margins are wide and blank for note-taking.

The *NISB* is unique among all study Bibles in that it has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on the text. The *NISB* isn't compiled from any particular theological stance because its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study. *Inductive* Bible study simply means that the Bible itself is the primary source for study. (The various charts that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.) Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it, which brings us to the second item you will need.

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens (such as Micron pens) for writing in your Bible. The Micron pens are best for this purpose. Office supply stores should have these.

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil.

4. A composition notebook or loose-leaf notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.

SECOND

1. As you study this book, you'll find specific instructions for each day's study. The study


should take you between 15 and 20 minutes a day. However, just know that the more time you can give to this study, the greater the spiritual dividends and the greater your intimacy with the Word of God and the God of the Word. If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and you find the lessons too heavy, simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.

As a word of warning, you need to be aware that any time you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And the enemy doesn't want you prepared for battle. Thus, the warfare! Remember that our one and only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and it is enough to fell the enemy.

To study or not to study is a matter of choice first, discipline second. It's a matter of the heart. On what or whom are you setting your heart? Get armed for war! And remember, victory is certain.

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to think through the content of the text by asking the "5 W's and an H": who, what, when, where, why, and how. Posing questions like these and searching out the answers help you see exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H, you ask questions like these:

- a. **Who** are the main characters?
- b. **What** is the chapter about?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this occur?
- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did this happen?

3. The "when" of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. We do this by putting a clock (like the one shown here)  in the margin of our Bibles beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. Or you may want to underline references to time in one specific color. As a reminder, note on your key-word bookmark (which is explained next in this section) how you are going to mark time references in each chapter.

4. You will be told about certain key words that you should mark throughout this study. This is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. While this may seem a little

time-consuming, you will discover that it is a valuable learning tool. If you will develop the habit of marking your Bible, you will find it will make a significant difference in the effectiveness of your study and in how much you retain as a result of your study.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the book, while other key words will be concentrated in specific chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark its synonyms (words that have the same meaning in a particular context) and any pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, their, them*) in the same way you have marked the key word. Because some people have requested them, we will give you various ideas and suggestions in your daily assignments for how you can mark different key words.

Marking words for easy identification can be done by colors, symbols, or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If you use symbols, we suggest you keep them very simple. For example, one of the key words in 1 John is *love*. You could draw a red heart like this over ^{love}. If a symbol is used in marking a key word, it is best for the symbol to somehow convey the meaning of the word.

As you begin this new venture, we recommend that you devise a color-coding system for marking key words that you decide to mark throughout your Bible. Then, when you glance at the pages of your Bible, you will have instant recognition of the words.

In marking the members of the Godhead (which we do not always mark), we use a triangle to represent the **Father**. We then color it yellow. Then, playing off the triangle, we mark the Son this way: **Jesus**, and the Holy Spirit this way: **Spirit**. We find that when you mark every reference to God and Jesus, your Bible becomes cluttered. However, since the Spirit is mentioned less and because many people do not have a thorough biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit, it is good to mark all the references to the Spirit of God.

When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. Therefore, we recommend that you tear out the perforated card in the back of this book and write the key words and their symbols on it. Mark the words in the way you plan to mark each in the Bible text, and then use the card as a bookmark. Make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible, and a different one for any specific book of the Bible you are studying. Or record your marking system for the words you plan to mark throughout your Bible on a blank page in your Bible.

5. AT A GLANCE charts are located at the end of each section. When you complete your study of each chapter of these books, record the main theme of that chapter on the appropriate chart. A chapter theme is a brief description or summary of the main theme or predominant subject, teaching, or event covered in that chapter.

When stating chapter themes, it is best to use words found within the text itself and to be as

brief as possible. Make sure that you do them in such a way as to distinguish one chapter from another. Doing this will help you to remember what each chapter is about. In addition, it will provide you with a ready reference if you desire to find something in the book rather quickly and without a lot of page-turning.

If you develop the habit of filling out the AT A GLANCE charts as you progress through the study, you will have a complete synopsis of the book when you finish. If you have a *New Inductive Study Bible*, you will find the same charts in your Bible. If you record your chapter themes on the charts in your Bible and on the designated line at the head of each chapter in the text, you'll always have a quick synopsis of the chapter and the book.

6. Begin your study with prayer. Don't start without it. Why? Well, although you are doing your part to handle the Word of God accurately, remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words you are reading are absolute truth, given to you by God so that you can know Him and His ways more intimately. These truths are divinely understood.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

This is why you need to pray. Simply tell God you want to understand His Word so you can live accordingly. Nothing pleases Him more than obedience—honoring Him as God—as you are about to see.

7. Each day, when you finish your lesson, take some time to think about what you read, what you saw with your own eyes. Ask your heavenly Father how you can apply these insights, principles, precepts, and commands to your own life. At times, depending on how God speaks to you through His Word, you might want to record these “Lessons for Life” in the margin of your Bible next to the text you have studied. Simply put “LFL” in the margin of your Bible, then, as briefly as possible, record the lesson for life that you want to remember. You can also make the note “LFL” on your key word bookmark as a reminder to look for these when you study. You will find them encouraging (and sometimes convicting) when you come across them again. They will be a reminder of what God has shown you from His Word.

THIRD

This study is designed so that you have an assignment for every day of the week. This puts you where you should be—in the Word of God on a daily basis, grasping, systematizing, and utilizing truth. It's revolutionary!

If you will do your study daily, you will find it more profitable than doing a week's study in

one sitting. Pacing yourself this way allows time for thinking through what you learn on a daily basis. However, whatever it takes to get it done, do it!

The seventh day of each week has several features that differ from the other six days. These features are designed to aid in one-on-one discipleship, group discussions, and Sunday school classes. However, they are also profitable even if you are studying this book by yourself.

The “seventh” day is whatever day in the week you choose to think about and/or discuss your week’s study. On this day, you will find a verse or two to memorize and thus STORE IN YOUR HEART. This will help you focus on a major truth or truths covered in your study that week.

To assist those using the material for discipleship, family devotions, or in a Sunday school class or a group Bible study, there are QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY. Whatever your situation, seeking to answer these questions will help you reason through some key issues in the study.

If you are using the study in a group setting, make sure the answers given are supported from the Bible text itself. This practice will help ensure that you are handling the Word of God accurately. As you learn to see what the text says, you will find that the Bible explains itself.

Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what the passage of Scripture *means*, make sure you interpret it in the light of its context. Context is what goes with the text...the Scriptures preceding and following what is written. Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If a Scripture passage ever seems to contradict the rest of the Word of God, you can be certain that something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to understand, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

Your discussion time should cause you to see how to apply these truths to your own life. What are you now going to embrace as truth? How are you going to order your life? Are you going to not only know these truths but also live accordingly?

The purpose of a THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK is to help you apply what you’ve learned. We’ve done this for your edification. In this, a little of our theology will inevitably come to the surface; however, we don’t ask that you always agree with us. Rather, think through what is said in light of the context of the Word of God. You can determine how valuable it is.

Remember, books in the New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study Course on that book. The Precept studies are awesome but require five hours of personal study a week.

INTRODUCTION



Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

The world will know that we are Christians (disciples of Christ) by our love for one another. Have you ever thought, *That’s easy for Jesus to say. He doesn’t know the people I have to put up with!* You probably wouldn’t say this out loud, but do you ever think it? A frustrated minister once said, “The Christian life would be easy if it weren’t for the people I have to put up with.” It seems that our greatest struggles involve relationships with others. Do you ever ask yourself, *How can I love the people around me? The people I work with? The people I go to church with? The people I live with? How can I love them when I have a hard enough time just tolerating them?*

Our relationships bring us not only our greatest struggles, but also our greatest joys. Relationships are important. They were at the top of Jesus’ priority list. Jesus said the two most important commandments are to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40). Love is expressed in relationships, and yet relationships give us the most trouble. How well do you relate to others? How can you consistently show love not only to people you like but also to people you don’t care to be around?

The Word of God has practical answers for the day-to-day struggles in our relationships.

For the next 13 weeks we will look at letters written by James, Paul, and John. From them we will gain solid, practical advice on how to love one another the way Jesus loved us so that the world will know we are His followers.

1 JOHN

INTRODUCTION TO 1 JOHN



Our world is made up of relationships. Most of us discover this truth at some point in our journey, although we all know some poor unfortunate soul who never seemed to comprehend the idea.

In this life, we all have two types of relationships. The first and most important is a vertical one—your relationship with God. This one is serious. your relationship with God determines everything else in this life and in the life to come. The second is horizontal—your relationship with others. Both require time and effort. Certain skills will make both work smoother. And we can do some things to injure both.


In this first letter from John the apostle to the church, we will learn some things about horizontal and vertical relationships. We will also see how to develop some skills that will make them work smoother.

WEEK ONE

CONDITIONS FOR *FELLOWSHIP*



Fellowship is the fuel that drives relationships. Relationships thrive on time spent together, and without it, they tend to fall apart. This is true for both your relationship with God and your relationships with others. This week we will look at the first chapter of 1 John, and we will spend some time considering the idea of fellowship. Dedicate a page in your notebook to everything you discover about fellowship. By the end of the week you will have learned a lot about the topic.




DAY ONE

The best way to get a feel for a letter is to read it in one sitting. This helps you see the flow of thought and sometimes the author's purpose in writing.

Your assignment today is to read 1 John in one sitting. The letter has only five short chapters, so it is easily readable in a few minutes. Begin with prayer, asking God to give you an understanding of this book. As you read, mark in a distinctive way or with a distinctive color each reference to *write* (*writing, written*).

Now that you have finished, record (in your own words) John's purpose for writing this letter.



DAY TWO

The rest of this week we will focus our time and energy on 1 John 1. Today read chapter 1 and mark *God* and *Jesus* the way demonstrated on page 8. Make sure you include the pronouns.

When you have finished, list in your notebook what you learned by marking these words. Be

sure to answer the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions.

Now, for your last assignment today, turn to the gospel of John and read 1:1-5,14-18. List in your notebook what these passages teach you about Jesus. If you have time after this assignment, meditate on what you have learned about the Word of Life.

DAY THREE

Your assignment is to read 1 John 1:1-10 again. This time as you read, draw an arch above the word *light*, and shade it yellow. Shade *darkness* black or gray. Draw a blue figure eight above the word *fellowship*. Make sure to include appropriate synonyms.

In your notebook, list what you learn about *light*, *darkness*, and *fellowship* from chapter 1.

Now, read the following passages and note what you learn about *light*, *darkness*, and *fellowship*.


☞ Matthew 5:14-16

☞ 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

DAY FOUR

You have already noticed the two types of fellowship in 1 John 1: fellowship with the Father and fellowship with other believers. As we said earlier, fellowship is the fuel that drives relationships. That means that if something injures the fellowship, it will injure the relationship. Well, friend, John writes about something that injures fellowship. Today we will take a closer look at what that is and how it affects the relationship.

Read chapter 1 again slowly and shade each reference to *sin* brown. Mark *truth* like this:

 Underline the phrase *if we say*¹ in red.

In your notebook, list what you learn about *sin* and *truth* from chapter one.

Finally, before you wrap up for today, read the following passages to see what you learn about truth, especially since it involves our relationship with God. You will see very familiar verses in each passage. Pay close attention to the contexts where the familiar verses are found.

☞ John 3:16-21

☞ John 8:31-32

DAY FIVE

Read 1 John 1. When you have finished, record the main idea of chapter 1 on 1 JOHN AT A GLANCE on page 49.

As you have noticed, we sometimes ask you to look at passages other than the primary one you are studying. This is called cross-referencing. Cross-referencing is invaluable because the best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture itself. Looking at other places in the Word where an idea is discussed will shed light on the passage you're studying.

For this reason, your second assignment is to read the following passages and record everything you learn about fellowship in your notebook.

- ☞ Acts 2:37-42 (Peter has just preached his sermon on Pentecost day.)
- ☞ 1 Corinthians 1:9
- ☞ 2 Corinthians 13:14 (KJV and NKJV use the word “communion.”)
- ☞ Hebrews 13:16 (“Sharing” is a translation of the same Greek word as “fellowship.” The KJV uses the word “communicate.”)

DAY SIX

We will look at chapter 2 more in depth next week. For now, getting a feel for the chapter will be enough. Read chapter 2 and mark the word *abide* (and synonyms such as *lives*, *remained*, and *continued*) with a diamond.

In this passage, *lives*, *remained*, and *continued* are all translated from the same Greek word as *abide(s)*². When you have finished, list in your notebook what you learn about abiding.

DAY SEVEN



Store in your heart: 1 John 1:6-7

Read and discuss: 1 John 1:1-10

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- ☞ What does John say his purpose is for writing this letter?
- ☞ Of all of the reasons John gives for writing, which one seems to override the others?
- ☞ Why is it important to know whether you have eternal life?
- ☞ What did you learn this week about Jesus, the Word of Life?
- ☞ What did you learn about fellowship?
- ☞ How do our actions support or deny our claims to be in fellowship with the Father?
- ☞ Whom are believers supposed to have fellowship with?
- ☞ What things injure fellowship with God? What things injure your fellowship with others?
- ☞ Have you ever injured your fellowship with others or with God? How?
- ☞ What are you personally responsible to do in order to have fellowship with God? With others?
- ☞ What did you learn this week about sin?
- ☞ What's true of someone who says he has no sin? Of someone who says he has never sinned? Of someone who admits (confesses) his sin?
- ☞ How do these truths apply to you?
- ☞ What did you learn about darkness, light, and your personal walk this week?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The first condition for fellowship with God is walking in the light. The second is dealing honestly with your sin.

The Greek word translated “fellowship” in the New Testament is *koinōnia*. The word means to share in, to participate together with. It implies the idea of having something in common. God

is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him, yet we walk in darkness, we have a problem. Why? Because God is light, and light cannot have fellowship with darkness. Darkness and light have nothing in common.

Walking in darkness is synonymous with walking in sin. Sin injures the fellowship we have with God. Has God ever seemed distant to you? Have you ever felt as if your prayers were reaching only as high as the ceiling? Have you been in worship services when you simply did not feel His presence and you were maybe even a little annoyed with worshippers around you who seemed to be in touch with Him? Friend, the trouble may be that you are walking in darkness.

Fellowship with God is not the only relationship injured by sin. Your relationship with others is also damaged. What fellowship does darkness have with light? When you walk in the darkness, other believers will seem distant from you. Sin injures your walk with God, and because believers are His children (John 1:12) it also injures your walk with them. Fellowship fuels relationships. Walking in sin stops the fellowship and injures the relationship.

Where are you walking? In prayer, ask God to reveal any area of your life where you are walking in darkness. What do you do when He exposes some area of sin in your life? You go back to 1 John 1:9. He will cleanse you and place you back in the light.

Spend some time today with God. Let Him search your heart for anything that needs to be brought to the light.