



# Committed



**4-week Devotional  
through 1 John 3  
for Families with Teens**



**Sanctus**  
Student Ministries

**Week 1:**

# **Our Commitment to God**

**Read  
1 John 3:1-3**

As you read through 1 John 3 you'll notice that John tends to layout for his readers an obvious contrast between what life looks like if we do, or don't follow Jesus. But before we jump into that, John wants us to pause and consider the fact that God decided to make us his children.....US?....God's children?!

John is totally blown away by this! How is it that we, the busted up, train wreck, screw-ups we are, find favor in God's eyes to the point where he wants to claim us as his children? He is pure. We are not. But John says what God did to purify us and make us part of his family: He lavished his love on us...so that we can be purified like him...and if we believe in this we are made pure.

**Tie it all together:**

Why is it so hard for us to believe that this kind of love is real?

Think about what it means that Jesus purified us by dying with everything that kept us from God. This purified our souls. What are the things that Jesus purified you from?

This week, read this passage again, and when you feel tempted to sin, remind yourself that Jesus loves you.

Week 2:

# The Commitment that was Broken

**Read  
1 John 3:4-10**

Here we see John lay out again what life looks like together with Jesus, and apart from him. Specifically, John dives deeper into the purity, and sinlessness of Jesus. He is so perfect that the imperfection of sin cannot be in him in any way, even to the point where if we sin we cannot be with him. John also takes a moment to address that if we are sinning then we aren't connected to Jesus, but instead we are connected to the devil! However, John reminds us of the reason why Jesus came to earth: to destroy the devil's work. Fun fact: the original tense of this phrase ("to destroy") isn't set in the past, present, or future. The tense is kind of all three; *always*. The devil's work always was, is, and will be destroyed forever. We were bound to him by our own sin, but Jesus destroyed that bond forever.

**Tie it all together:**

Read 1 John 3:10 again. What does this verse mean for your life?

Go back and read verse 3 again. Explain what it makes you feel knowing that your purification is an active process?

Remind yourself: No matter what schemes the devil tries to work out, those works were, are, will *always* be destroyed.

Week 3:

# Our Commitment to Each Other

**Read  
1 John 3:11-18**

Again John is so helpful in breaking down the difference between being a loving Christian person, vs being a non-Christian who hates. Verse 16 is one of the most famous verses in the entire letter. It not only displays the gospel, but it also calls the readers to live out the gospel. While the world might not understand, or even hate the love of Christ that you show to others, you can still know that your calling is greater than their words or actions. John calls his readers to love others with action *and* truth. The word “truth” means to be genuine, authentic, and based on Jesus. This is where we apply the old phrase, “What Would Jesus Do?” when we are trying to figure out how to love others. Whether it’s someone in need, or someone who hates your guts, we are called to lay our lives down for others, just as Jesus did for the world.

**Tie it all together:**

Think of the people you know who can be difficult to love? How does genuinely loving them with your words, and actions look?

Think of those you know who are in need. Same question.

Imagine if you treated these people the same way Jesus does.

**Week 4:**

# **God's Commitment to our Hearts**

**Read  
1 John 3:19-24**

You've probably noticed by now how John interconnects everything he is writing about. He flows from one thing to next, and so he moves from the topic of love to the heart.

When John writes about the heart, he is referring to our emotions and our desires. As Christians we typically feel guilt and shame when we fall back into sin, or when we consider the sins of our past. But God says through John, "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." The fact that God is omniscient means that He knows what sins you have committed and are committing. But John says that this fact is suppose to set your emotions at rest when you are in his presence. What's crazy is that this doesn't make sense, but that's how outrageous God's love for us is. This knowledge should propel us to live for him and not for ourselves.

## **Tie it all together:**

**If God's love removes shame from our hearts, what does verse 21 says we have instead?**

**If this is so, then how do we get anything we ask from God? (v.22)**

**What is God's command and what does it mean when we follow it?**

**Christian: God lives in you because of what he did through Jesus.**