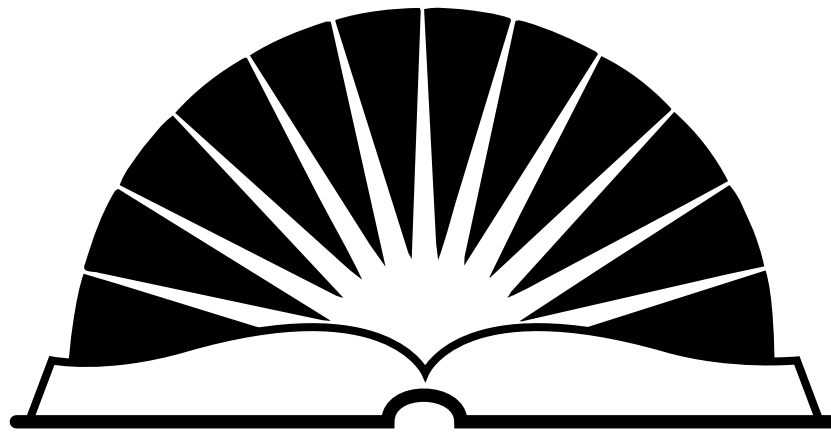


1JOHEL



JOY OF LIVING
BIBLE STUDIES

1-3 JOHN & JUDE

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

Sample
Lesson

Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living** Study.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways. Following are a few suggestions:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 min. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 min. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 min. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- Access to a TV/VCR is helpful but not necessary.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps....(then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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1-3 JOHN & JUDE WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players are chosen to be "IT". They join hands and with their free hand try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two "IT". The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two "IT". Only end players (IT) may tag. It is permissible for a player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become "IT". Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area.

15 - 20 min. Since there is no lesson for them to discuss, this is a good time to go over the class rules. You may wish to have them share something about themselves, i.e. brothers, sisters, where they live, what they did over the summer, etc.

to end of class CRAFT: WET CHALK PAINTING

MATERIALS

colored chalk

light construction paper

sponge

newspaper

water

reproducible biblical picture (found in a Christian book store)

carbon paper

Lay newspaper on table. Lay construction paper on newspaper. For those who are hesitant to draw their own story picture, a reproduced picture for them to trace onto the construction paper is perfect for them. For those who wish to draw their own picture, suggest a Bible story for them to draw.

Dampen construction paper with damp sponge. Using the chalk, they can either trace and color their picture, or draw and color their picture. Allow time to dry. If paper becomes too dry, wet a little more. Be sure the paper isn't too wet that it tears.

1-3 JOHN & JUDE - LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

Read 1 John, chapter 1, verses 1 - 4.

1. What does John say about Jesus in 1 John 1:1a?

2. What does John say about himself in 1 John 1:1b?

3. What senses does John use to back up his testimony?

4. **CHALLENGE:** Why do you think John gave his readers so much evidence about Jesus?

5. What is another reason John gives for writing this letter? See 1 John 1:4 for your answer.

Read 1 John 1, verses 5 - 7.

1. What happens when you shine a flashlight in a dark corner of a room?

2. Galatians 5:19-21 is like the flashlight shining in a corner. From these verses, what is considered sin?

3. **CHALLENGE:** If someone doesn't know what Galatians 5:19-21 says, are they sinning? See Romans 3:23 for your answer.

4. Can we be friends of God, and live in darkness? See 1 John 1:6 for your answer.

5. What does Galatians 5:22,23 say?

6. Before we eat, we wash our hands, even when they look clean. But, as we use the soap and water, we see the clear running water turn dark and realize our hands were dirty. What cleans us from every sin?

Read 1 John chapter 1, verses 8 - 10.

1. What does 1 John 1:8,9 say?

2. **HARD:** The Greek meaning of the word "confess" means "to say the same thing." (McGee) So, when we confess our sins, what are we really saying?

3. What if we don't think we have sinned? See verse 1 John 1:10.

4. **PERSONAL:** From verses 5-8, what did you learn about your sin?

1-3 JOHN & JUDE WEEK TWO

LESSON 1 DISCUSSION

15 - 20 min. free time - games, fellowship;

15 - 20 min. snack and group recreation: BEDLAM

This game requires four teams of equal size. Each team takes one corner of the room or playing field. The play area can be either square or rectangular. On a signal (e.g., whistle) each team attempts to move as quickly as possible to the corner diagonally across from their corner, performing an announced activity as they go. The first team to get all its members into its new corner wins that particular round. The first round can be simply running to the opposite corner, but after that you can use any number of possibilities: walking backward, wheelbarrow racing (one person is the wheelbarrow), piggyback, rolling somersaults, hopping on one foot, skipping, crab walking, etc. There will be literally mass bedlam in the center as all four teams crisscross. Alert your safety guards to referee the confusion in the middle where the lines cross.

15 - 20 min. discussion LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: BOOK SAFE

MATERIALS

old hardcover book with about 200 pages
rubber cement
Exacto or hobby knife
pencil
ruler

Open book to first page, and with the pencil mark 1" from all four sides of the page. Use the ruler to connect the marks to form a rectangle. With the Exacto or hobby knife, cut out the center of the rectangle. Cut through two to four pages at a time, until you have reached the back cover. Brush the rubber cement along the inside edges. Allow to dry. The empty space now becomes a "safe." When placed on a shelf, the book looks like all the others.

1-3 JOHN & JUDE - LESSON 1 - ANSWERS

Read 1 John, chapter 1, verses 1 - 4.

1. What does John say about Jesus in 1 John 1:1a? [Jesus was in eternity past. He always was. Note: John writes “That which **was**.” [He uses the past tense of the verb, not the present tense **is**. Jesus always was; as was God, He had no beginning.] “Christ was alive when the world began.”]
2. What does John say about himself in 1 John 1:1b? [“I have seen Him with my own eyes and listened to Him speak. I have touched Him with my own hands. He is God’s message of life.”]
3. What senses does John use to back up his testimony? 1. Sight; 2. Sound; 3. Touch.
4. **CHALLENGE:** Why do you think John gave his readers so much evidence about Jesus? [There were people trying to show that Christianity was not the true faith. John was saying he **knew** the claims Jesus made about Himself being God, eternal life, and that He was the Christ, were true because John was an eyewitness.”]
5. What is another reason John gives for writing this letter? See 1 John 1:4 for your answer. [“We are writing this letter so we all will be full of joy.”]

Read 1 John 1, verses 5 - 7.

1. What happens when you shine a flashlight in a dark corner of a room? [You see what’s in the corner.]
2. Galatians 5:19-21 is like the flashlight shining in a corner. From these verses, what is considered sin? [“But when you follow your own natural desires there will be evil results. There are impure thoughts, lustful pleasures, idolatry, spiritism, hatred, and fighting. There are jealousy, and anger, arguments, and criticism. People feel that everyone else is wrong except those in their own little group. There will be wrong doctrine, envy, and murder. People will be drunk at wild parties and do all these sorts of things. Let me tell you again what I have told you before. Anyone living that sort of life will not enter the Kingdom of God.”]
3. **CHALLENGE:** If someone doesn’t know what Galatians 5:19-21 says, are they sinning? See Romans 3:23 for your answer. [“Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.”]
4. Can we be friends of God, and live in darkness? See 1 John 1:6 for your answer. [No] [“If we say we are God’s friends but live in darkness, we are lying.”]

5. What does Galatians 5:22,23 say? “But with the Holy Spirit in our lives there will be different kinds of fruit. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faith. People with the Spirit are gentle and have self-control. None of these things are against the Jewish law.”
6. Before we eat, we wash our hands, even when they look clean. But, as we use the soap and water, we see the clear running water turn dark and realize our hands were dirty. What cleans us from every sin? “Also, the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.”

Read 1 John chapter 1, verses 8 - 10.

1. What does 1 John 1:8,9 say? “If we say that we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves. We are refusing to accept the truth. If we confess our sins, He can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”
2. **HARD:** The Greek meaning of the word “confess” means “to say the same thing.” (McGee) So, when we confess our sins, what are we really saying? [We are agreeing with God that what we did was wrong, and that we have sinned against Him.]
3. What if we don’t think we have sinned? See verse 1 John 1:10. “If we say we haven’t sinned, we make God a liar. For He says we have sinned.”
4. **PERSONAL:** From verses 5-8, what did you learn about your sin? [Some possible answers: “I didn’t know jealousy, or anger was really a sin. I didn’t know I couldn’t have fellowship with God when I didn’t confess my sin. I really didn’t know some of the things I did was considered sin.” Etc.]