



# Life Group Discussion Guide

## August 31: 1 John 2:3-11 --- From Duty to Desire

### Icebreaker Options:

Growing up, what is one example of your having obeyed from a sense of duty rather than desire?

### Discussion Questions:

1. Dave began this week's sermon with the question: "What's something that started as a chore but over time became something you actually enjoy?" How did you answer his question? Share with the group.
2. **Read 1 John 2:3-11.** What stands out to you in this text? What encourages you? What challenges you?
3. **1 John 2:3** says, "We know we have come to know him if we keep his commands" (NIV). How does our keeping of His commands demonstrate we know him? (see John 14:15, 14:21, and 14:23)
4. **1 John 2:5-6** goes on to say "If anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did." How does obedience demonstrate love? How have you seen this reality in your life?
5. What is the relationship between God's love and our obedience? What is the relationship between our love for God and our obedience to His Word?
6. **1 John 2:7** says "Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard." How can this command (to love God and others) be old and new at the same time? Can you think of any Old Testament parallels to this section of Scripture (verses 3-11)? (Feel free to use cross-reference tools to answer this)

7. What does obedience from duty look like? Conversely, what does obedience from desire (or delight) look like? What are the benefits to the one obeying from desire rather than simply from duty?
8. Verses 9-11 focus on our relationship with others. What does our relationship with others reveal about our relationship with Jesus? Why does John emphasize this here?
9. In the sermon, we considered that “desire is built by where we walk.” How does our walk affect our desire? How can we identify areas where we might be walking in darkness rather than light?
10. This week, we also considered how obedience is “an overflow of our worship and appreciation for what God has done.” Was this a new concept for you? How does this differ from how you’ve considered obedience before?
11. Abiding in Jesus is the only way we can imitate Him (1 John 2:6; John 15). How can you abide in Jesus each day? How does this change your obedience and your walk?
12. **Take away:** Dave gave us this take-away this week: “Shape duty to desire through SERVING.” How can you be ready to serve someone in love (for God and for them) this week?

**Prayer:** Close your time in prayer for one another, that you would actively live these words from God, walking in the light, and living as Jesus lived. Confess any ways you are struggling to do this—especially in relationship with others. Ask God to give you the help you need through His Spirit to form your heart, soul, and mind to respond to His Word and His way with an obedience from desire and delight in Him. Thank Him that He is able to do this and to help you love God and others in ways that best reflect His heart.

## Helpful Links to Explore Serving:

[Serve at Legacy](#)

[Serve Kansas City](#)

[Learn About Your Spiritual Gifts](#)