

# HANDOUT

## Session 3: 1 John 2:28–3:23



### DISCUSS

**How should our expectation of God's return in the future affect our behavior in the present?**

1 John 3:1–3. **What does John remind his readers about their status before God?**

**What impact could the knowledge that one day you will see God have on your attitude?**

**Why is it easy to fall into a lifestyle that doesn't expect to answer to God?**

**What can you do today to modify your expectations regarding the return of our God?**

**How would that impact your life today? Tomorrow? This week?**

**In your life, how does abiding in Jesus—focusing on your relationship with Him through prayer, Bible study, and quiet listening to the Holy Spirit—affect you?**

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**What will happen to your expectations (and, therefore, your actions) if you focus your attention on abiding in Jesus?**

**What do you stand to gain? According to 1 John 3, what do you stand to lose if you don't?**

**1 John 3:11–15. What does John challenge his readers to do?**

**Why is it crucial that we love our fellow believers? What does it say about our attitude toward God?**

**Describe a time when you were on the receiving end of love from a fellow believer. How did it impact you? What did you learn about God through the experience?**

**What difference did it make in your life to be loved rather than hated?**

**What obstacles might stand in the way for you, personally, to love your fellow believers?**

**1 John 3:19–24. What kind of hope does it give you to know that God transcends even our guilt and shame?**

**What can you do this week to continue to build your relationship—your fellowship—with the God who calls you His child?**

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### LIVE IT OUT

**Write:** Write out the phrase “Live like Jesus is coming today” on a sticky note or a card, and put it somewhere you’ll see it regularly—a mirror, your desk, on your dashboard. Use it as a reminder to live in the expectation of Jesus’s return.

**Connect:** Identify a fellow believer who’s in need—even if it’s something as simple as raking leaves in their yard or visiting them in the hospital. Take the opportunity to act out your love, and serve that believer.

**Pray:** Spend ten minutes in prayer this week asking God to instill in you the deep confidence that comes from knowing that you are His child.

**Memorize:** Write out 1 John 3:16, and work on memorizing it this week. Use the verse to remind you what active love looks like.

**Read:** Spend fifteen minutes this week re-reading the words of Jesus in Matthew 24–25. Take the time to reflect on Jesus’s challenge to His followers to live in light of His return.