

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (NIV) 1 John 5:13

Aim Questions:

1. How do we show that we love God?
2. How do we best love our brothers?
3. How does a person know that he or she is a Christian?
4. How can a Christian show love to another Christian?
5. Who protects Christians from the devil?



Hook:



If it Looks Like a Duck (*Illustration*). You have heard the proverb: "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it must be a duck." The point is that the true identity of any animal or human being can be determined by observing its behavior. Illustrate this point by bringing to the classroom two or three items representing an animal, and also bring the real animal (i.e. a picture of a duck, a hunting decoy or stuffed animal duck, and a real live duck). Keep all items hidden until they are revealed to the students one at a time. Hold up the picture and ask the students: "What is this?" They should say, "It is a duck". Ask them how they know it is a duck. Tell them that it is not a duck but a picture of a duck. Then reveal the decoy or stuffed animal duck and ask them: "What is this?" They should say that it is a stuffed animal or duck decoy. Show them the live animal and let them observe the duck for several minutes and have them describe some of the unique characteristics that distinguish the duck from other animals. Explain that the real identity of whether a person is a Christian can be determined by careful observation also, and that 1 John 5 lists seven of these characteristics.



Possessions (*Discussion*). Bring in some of your most treasured possessions. Talk about how you received them and why they are so special. These should be items that belong only to you. What makes them yours? Perhaps there is an interesting story of how you came to possess these items. Do you know anyone else who has something like this? Now allow the students to talk about their possessions. This morning we will hear about seven very special possessions, unlike any others. All together these possessions give us something wonderful.



The Gong Show (*Activity*). Have a panel of three students sitting at a table. Three teachers or helpers will be the contestants. One of the panel members (a student) will stand next to a gong (set of symbols) and wait for one of the contestants (a teacher) to say something false about Christ.

Each panel member will get a turn at the gong. Each teacher will get a turn to speak about God. Have one teacher of the three only speak truth. Have the other two have a lot of true things and a couple of false things. Help the students be discerning about the truth.



Checkpoint Charlie (*Discussion/Demonstration*). What are the checkpoints you can use in determining whether something is complete or not. A simple illustration would be a chair. What makes a chair a chair? First check to see how many legs it has. Check them, 1, 2, 3, 4. Now look for a seat. Check. Does it have a back? If not, it's a stool, not a chair. If it has all of these features, it must be a chair. Bring in several items from home. Ask the students to verbalize what the checkpoints for each of these items would be. It would be fun to bring in some items that were in some way incomplete, in that they had some feature that was missing. Talk about how if one or more features is non-existent, then the item is incomplete. This morning we will be hearing about the seven checkpoints or possessions of a true born again Christian.



Walking in the Light Flashlight Test (*Memorization*). Have students say the memory verse for last week. This week also have them practice and say the memory verses for I John 5. When they memorize all the verses they will earn a neon flashlight.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –

Bible Adventure –

You've probably heard the expression, "You can park yourself in a garage but that doesn't make you a car!" Everybody knows a car has certain characteristics, just like everything else in this world. You can tell what something is by the characteristics it possesses. That's the point the apostle John was making in the book of First John. Written to new believers in the church, First John contains a warning to John's friends to beware of false teaching being spread throughout the church. What was John's advice? He told his friends to arm themselves with a healthy dose of the truth, so they would be able to spot false teaching, and false teachers, when they came along. "These are the characteristics of a true believer in Jesus Christ," he told them. The true believer would turn his back on sin and would demonstrate a heart of love toward other believers. If those characteristics were not there, John said, it was likely that person never belonged to Christ in the first place. John's words were so strong because he did not want anyone to be fooled where the truth was concerned. Perhaps some of the new believers who read the letter were worried about whether they truly belonged to Christ or not. Maybe there were times when they felt a lack of love for others. Perhaps they would sin in some area of their lives. Did that mean they did not belong to Christ? John did not want them to worry about this, so he told them how they could really know if they were God's child.

John wanted his friends to find comfort in the fact that the same tests they used to discover the false teachers, were the same tests that could reassure them that they truly belonged to Christ. In chapter five of 1 John, verse 13, John writes, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." What things did John write that would help his friends know, without a doubt, that they belonged to Christ and had eternal life? He told them about seven characteristics they would be able to see in their lives if they were a genuine believer. We'll call these characteristics "possessions," since they are given by God to every true child of His.

The first possession is the belief that Jesus is the Christ. When a person believes not only that Jesus exists, but also that He came to suffer and die in that person's place, and dedicates himself to following Christ all his life, that person is "born of God" (v. 1). The person who was born of God would not just agree in his head with this truth, but his life would show evidence of it in his obedience to God's Word, and his love for other believers.

The second and third possession of the true believer are closely linked together. The second, love for God, will result in the third, love for other believers. True believers expressed love for God through

loving their brothers. They knew that every believer is made in God's image and *holds privileges as sons of the King*. Out of respect and love for God, the true believer will always remind himself of these facts and love all of God's children.

The fourth possession every true believer has is joyful and willing obedience to God's commands (5:3). John writes that to obey God is not "burdensome." He means that it is not difficult or heavy for God's child to do this. Anyone can obey if they are being forced to, but the mark of the true Christian is that God's commands are joyful and satisfying to follow. If you belong to Christ, you will want to obey Him. Does this mean you will never sin? No, but it does mean that when you sin, you will feel strongly that things are not right between you and God. If you lie to your dad or mom, you feel bad until you tell them about it and ask their forgiveness. It's the same with God. If you are really His, there is nothing you can do to change that, but your sin can come between the two of you, and cost you the closeness with God that is so precious. Remember 1 John 1:9? "If we confess our sin....He will forgive us our sin and purify us..." The relationship can be restored.

Because the true believer wants to follow God's commands, God is able to help him win the battle with the devil and the things he tries to tempt us with. John writes, "Everyone born of God overcomes the world." Being an overcomer is a great thing! It means you win, you have the victory over the enemy. This is the fifth possession God gives His children--the power to win over sin! It comes as we place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, growing in our knowledge of Him and in our obedience to Him.

Part of learning more of Christ and growing in our faith is digging into God's Word for ourselves. The sixth possession God gives His children is the witness of Christ's ministry that we find in the pages of the Bible. The apostle John's words are for us today. He wanted us to know that the things we read in God's Word were not made up or exaggerated. They were witnessed by John and the other apostles and faithfully written down for us. They wrote that Jesus ministered as a man, and that His ministry was approved of and confirmed by God the Father. The eyewitness of John and the other apostles made the lies and tricks of the false teachers look silly by comparison. The true accounts of the apostles gave all Christians a belief in who Christ is, and what He has done.

The seventh possession is the greatest of all--it is the witness of God's Holy Spirit inside every true believer. Those who made up the early church believed the words of John and the other apostles, but John said that the witness of the Holy Spirit was even more important. This means that when we place our faith in Christ, God Himself reassures us that it is true. If someone refuses the witness of God Himself, he is calling God a liar.

It's a dangerous, deadly thing to fool yourself into thinking you are saved when you're not, but God doesn't want His true children to struggle with doubts, either. John shared these seven possessions with us so that **we** could know whether we have eternal life. Don't be afraid to check yourself out--the only thing you have to lose are your doubts. You can talk to someone today about them. Do you have the seven possessions? Let's go back and look at them again.

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, that He came to suffer and die in your place? Have you committed yourself to following Him for the rest of your life?
2. Do you love God above everything else? Does your life show that you do?
3. Do you express your love for God by loving other Christians, putting their needs ahead of your own?
4. Is your heart's desire to be obedient to God's wishes and commands? Does it bring you joy when you follow His word?
5. Are you experiencing the power to win over sin? Does it get easier, the closer you walk with Christ?
6. Do you spend time reading the eyewitness accounts in the Bible about Jesus Christ? Do you have confidence that they are true?
7. Do you have the witness of the Holy Spirit inside you that reassures you that putting your faith in Jesus is right and good?

Sometimes we struggle in one or more of these areas, but if you're God's child they will be seen in you. Do you see them in yourself? If you have doubts or you just don't know, talk to your Dad or Mom and ask them if they think you have these possessions. If you're struggling, talk to one of your teachers before you leave today. God wants us to know that we have eternal life. Don't go one more day with

doubts nipping at your heels, when God can give you the confidence that you are truly one of His.



Look:



Four Work Stations (Craft/Discussion). At each of these four stations, the children can make the 7 crafts for the mobile. While making the crafts, teachers should ask the following questions to help apply the lesson for today. The four stations should be broken into the following:

- **Station #1: Christ**
 - ♦ Who do you think Jesus Christ is?
 - ♦ Do you believe that He is truly the Son of God?
 - ♦ Have you received Him as your Lord and Savior?
 - ♦ If you believe you're a believer, what did you do in order to become one?
- **Station #2: Love for God and Love for Others**
 - ♦ How would you describe the love of God?
 - ♦ How does God's love differ from the world's "love?"
 - ♦ What are some ways in which a young Christian might show God's love toward others?
 - ♦ Do you demonstrate this kind of love toward others?
 - ♦ Do you think that a person who fails to show love toward others is really a Christian?
- **Station #3: Joyful Obedience and Victory over Sin**
 - ♦ Why is it so important to be joyful when we obey God's commands?
 - ♦ Do you think God is pleased when we obey on the outside but disobey on the inside?
 - ♦ In what ways do you joyfully obey God's commands?
 - ♦ Do you think that a person who does not obey God's commands can call themselves a Christian?
- **Station #4: Witness of the Word and the Holy Spirit**
 - ♦ What does the Bible mean to you?
 - ♦ Do you trust what the Bible says above what any other person says?
 - ♦ Do you think that a person who doesn't believe the entire Bible is really a Christian?

Can you say that you are 100% sure that you are a Christian? If so, why? If not, why not?



Possessions Mobile (Craft). Cut out each picture on **1JN05.GF1 Pg. 1 and 2**, color and glue or tape to card stock hearts provided by children's ministry (you keep God's possessions in your heart). On the back of each heart attach the possession shown on the opposite side. Attach Possession #1 to the hanger hook. Connect a 4"- 8" piece of string to each end of three straws. Then attach one heart to each string and balance the two hearts with a string in the center of the straw. Attach one straw to each end of the clothes hanger and also to the center. Balance entire mobile and glue or tape string to hanger.




Life (Worksheet). Use this worksheet to prepare the kids to learn this weeks verse, **1JN05.GF2**.




Passage Review Questions (Worksheet). This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1JN05.GF3**.



Took:

 **Is Christ in Me? (Discussion/Craft/Activity).**  In preparation, get a mirror (or cover a piece of cardboard with foil) for each child. Make double-sided copies using **1JHN05.GF4 Pg. 1** and **Pg. 2**. After making your copies, cut along the lines on **1JHN05GF4 Pg. 2** making “puzzle pieces.” Paperclip one set of puzzle pieces together for each child. For **TOOK** time, give one set of puzzle pieces and one mirror to each child. While reviewing orally with the class each of the seven possessions learned about in today’s Bible adventure, challenge the children to ask themselves if they truly have this possession. Ask the children to put the pieces showing possessions they have in one pile and those they don’t in another pile. Now have the children look in their mirror. They see themselves. Have the children turn the puzzle pieces in their “have” piles over and use their mirror as a backboard to do the puzzles on. If they truly have all seven possessions, Christ is in them and they are born again. They have the ability to live Christ-like lives, others see Christ through them, and God sees them as sinless because of Christ’s atoning sacrifice for them. If they don’t possess all seven puzzle pieces they are not born again. God sees their sin when He looks at them; others cannot see Christ in them, and they look at things with selfish motives and desires.

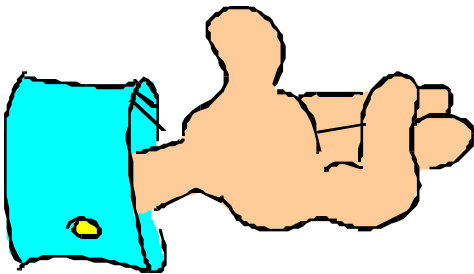
 **Spiritual Life Report Cards (Activity).** This take-home page will work in conjunction with the crafts and Look stations. You may want to add an incentive so that the children will complete the assignment and bring it back the following week. Parents need to be informed to help their children with these report cards, **1JN05.GF5**.



Possession # 1
Belief in Jesus Christ



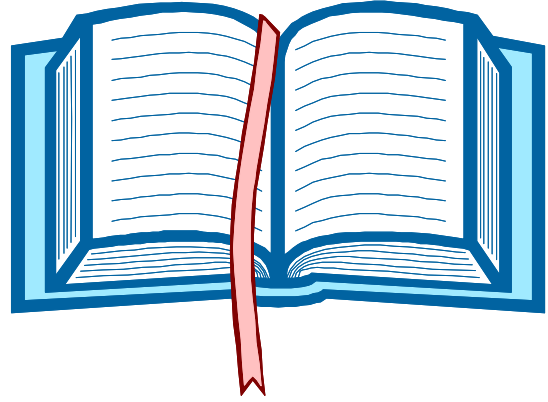
Possession # 2
Love for God



Possession # 3
Love for Others

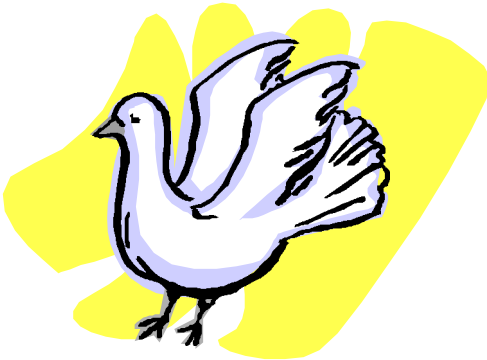


Possession # 4
Joyful Obedience to
God



Possession # 5
Power to Win over Sin

Possession # 6
Christ's Ministry in the
Bible



Possession # 7
Holy Spirit

LIFE

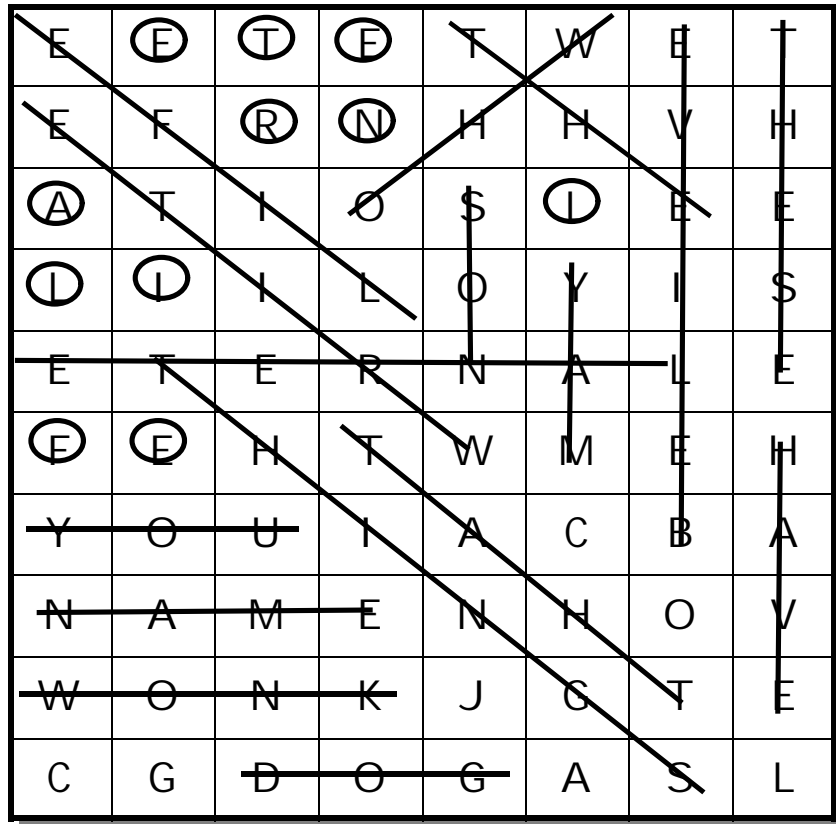
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E	F	R	N	H	H	V	H
A	T	I	O	S	L	E	E
L	I	I	L	O	Y	I	S
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	E
F	E	H	T	W	M	E	H
Y	O	U	I	A	C	B	A
N	A	M	E	N	H	O	V
W	O	N	K	J	G	T	E
C	G	D	O	G	A	S	L

Find all the words listed below and draw a line through them in the puzzle above. The remaining letters spell out a HIDDEN message. Start at the top row and copy the remaining letters to the underlined spaces below.

BELIEVE	ETERNAL	GOD
HAVE	KNOW	LIFE
MAY	NAME	SON
THAT	THE	THESE
THINGS	WHO	WRITE
YOU		

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (NIV)

Word Search Puzzle Key



ETERNAL LIFE

21. What is all wrongdoing? 5:17
22. Anyone born of God does not what? 5:18
23. Can the evil one harm us? 5:18b
24. We are the children of God, and the whole world is under whose control? 5:19
25. The Son of God has given us what? Why? 5:20
26. What are we to keep ourselves from? 5:21

Passage Review Questions

1 John chapter 5

1. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is what? 5:1a
2. Everyone who loves the Father does what? 5:1b
3. How do we know that we love the children of God? 5:2
4. What is love for God? Why? 5:3
5. Everyone born of God overcomes what? 5:4
6. Who is it that overcomes the world? 5:5
7. Who is the one who came by water and blood? 5:6a

8. Who testifies about question 7 and why? 5:6b

9. Name the three that testify. 5:7-8

10. Who accepts whose testimony, but whose testimony is greater and why? 5:9

11. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has what in his heart? 5:10

12. Anyone who does not believe God has made who out to be a liar and why? 5:10b

13. What is this testimony? 5:11

14. He who has the Son has what? 5:12

15. He who does not have the Son of God does not have what? 5:12

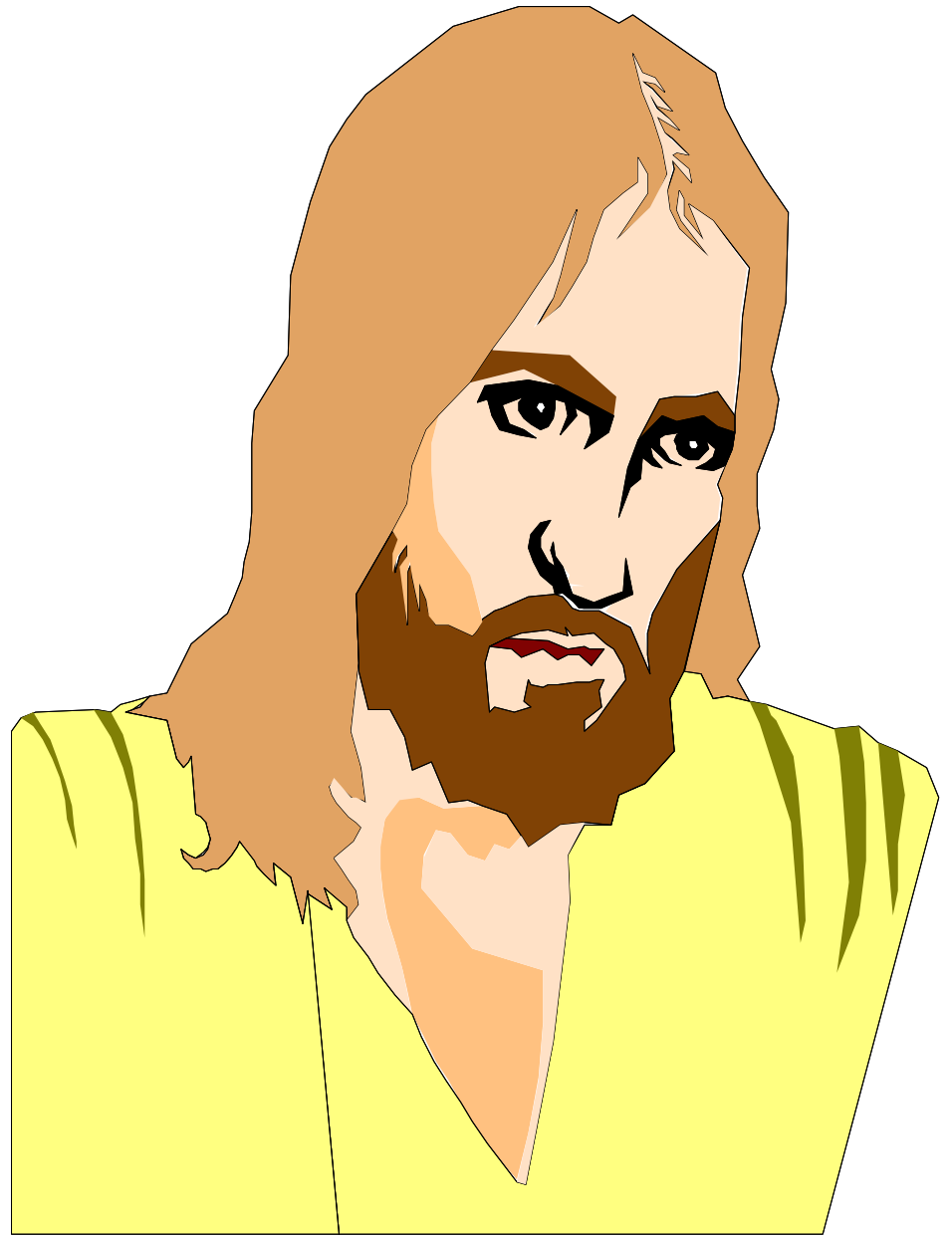
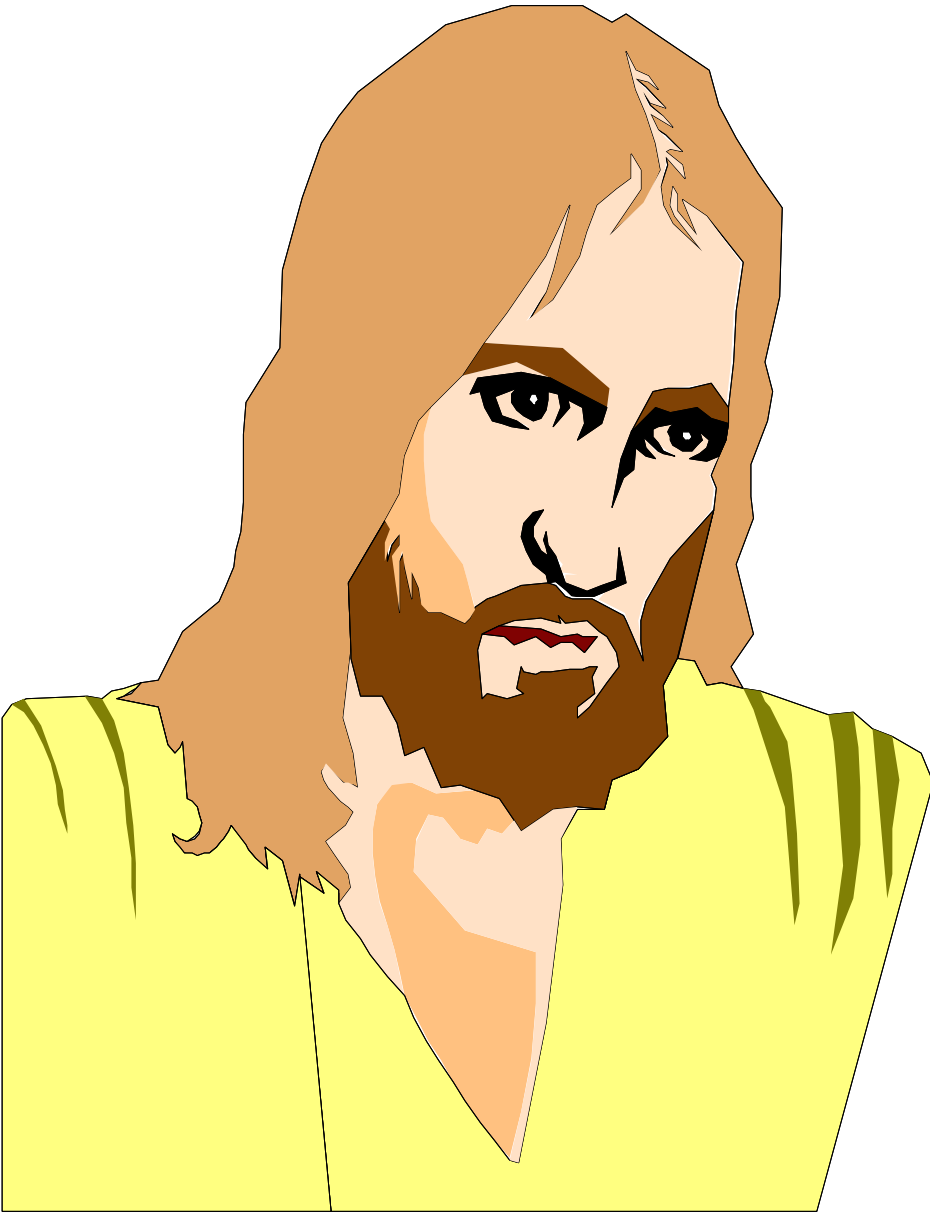
16. Why were these things written? 5:13

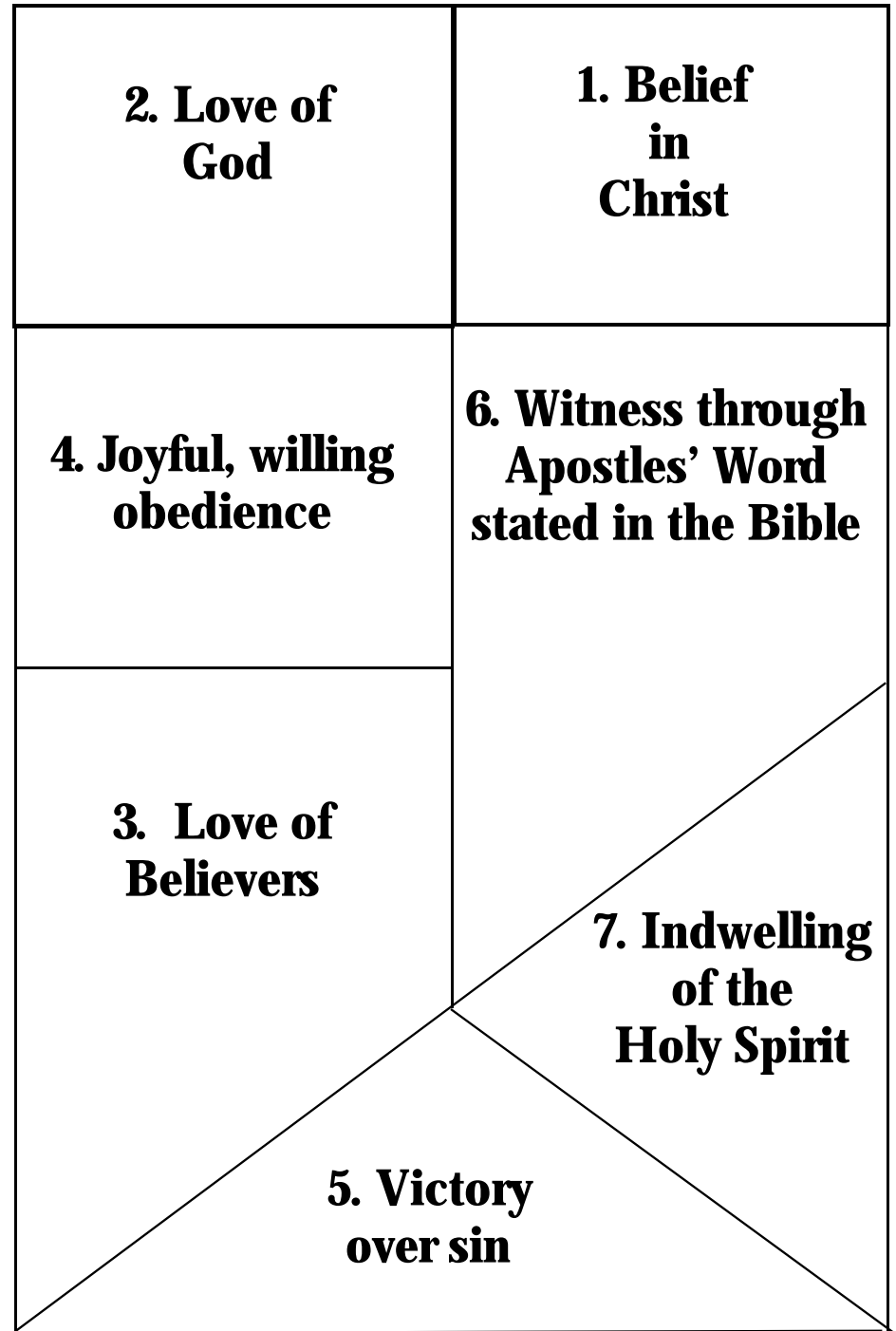
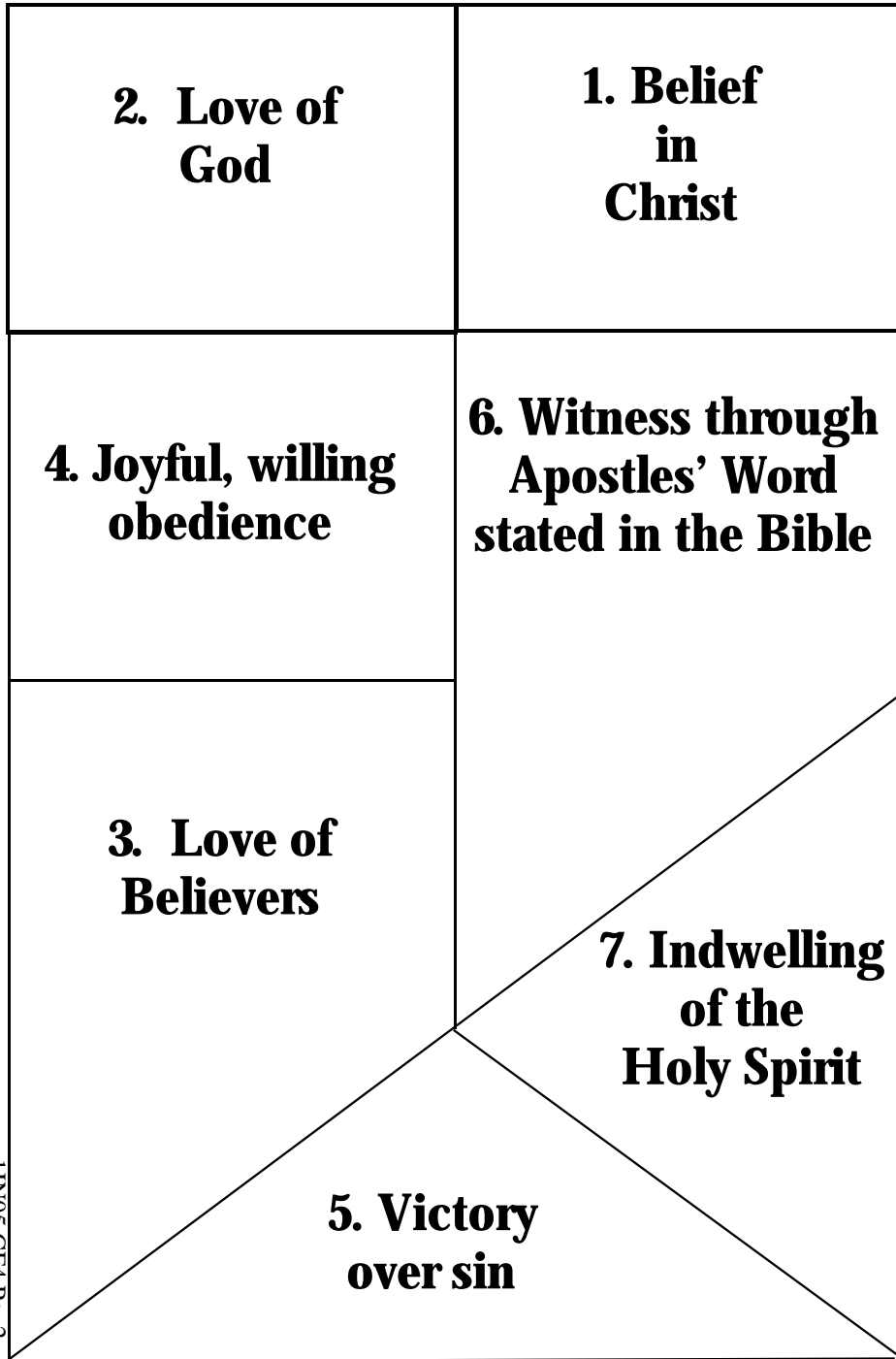
17. What is the confidence we have in approaching God? 5:14

18. If we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know what? 5:15

19. If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death what are we to do? 5:16

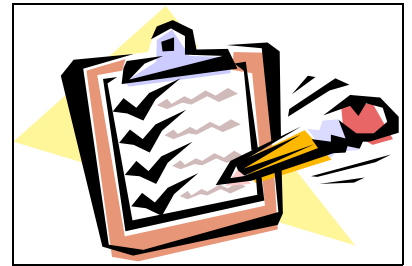
20. Is there a sin that leads to death? 5:16b





Spiritual Life Report Card

Directions for Parents: Please sit down with your child and go over this “report card.” For each category, discuss with your child how he or she is doing in the following areas. Please utilize this opportunity to evaluate their profession of faith. These 7 possessions of the Christian life were discussed in today’s lesson as the children studied 1 John 5:1-12.



1. **Belief in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ**

Who do you think Jesus Christ is?
Do you believe that He is truly the Son of God?
Have you received Him as your Lord and Savior?

2. **Love for God**

How would you describe the love of God?
How does God’s love differ from the world’s “love?”
What are some ways in which a young Christian might show God’s love towards others?

3. **Love for Others**

Do you demonstrate this kind of love towards others?
Do you think that a person who fails to show love towards others is really a Christian?

4.-5. **Joyful Obedience and Victory Over Sin**

Why is it so important to be joyful when we obey God’s commands?
Do you think God is pleased when we obey on the outside but disobey on the inside?
In what ways do you joyfully obey God’s commands?
Do you think that a person who does not obey God’s commands can call themselves a Christian?

6.-7. **Witness of the Word and Holy Spirit’s Indwelling**

What does the Bible mean to you?
Do you trust the Bible says above what any other person says?
Do you think that a person who doesn’t believe the entire Bible is really a Christian?
Can you say that you are 100% sure that you are a Christian? If so, why? If not, why not?

