know GOD know LIFE

Seven sessions from 1 John

Secondary School

Lunchtime Group Resource
The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

Although all pages from *know GOD know LIFE* may be photocopied for use in Christian groups, Crusaders request that each school purchase at least one original. However, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, mechanical, recording, or any other – except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

All rights reserved.


© The Crusader Union of Australia
1st Edition 2003
2nd Edition 2004
3rd Edition 2005
Welcome

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

What’s Inside?

- **6** sets of leader’s notes for regular meetings. The leader’s notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- **6** student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passage (NIV), questions and prayer ideas.
- **1** set of leader’s notes for an outreach meeting.
- **2** colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the ‘CRU School Groups’ logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

Before You Start

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and questions before the group meets. Answers have not been provided for all questions.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- Students often break into set small groups (see Week 1 for explanation). The aim of this is to help them get to know and pray for one another, as well as encourage consistent attendance at the group. Please be aware that if new people attend you will need to feed them into groups.
- **Note that the outreach meeting (Week 5) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs doing.**

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God’s work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me.”

Colossians 1:28–29
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Main Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Will The Real God Please Stand Up?         | 1 John 1:1–5  | God makes Himself known
Jesus came to reveal what God is like so that we could know Him.         |
| 2    | The Real Thing?                            | 1 John 1:5–2:6| Those who know God ... copy him
If we claim to know God then we must be growing more like Him.             |
| 3    | Pulling In Opposite Directions             | 1 John 2:15–17| Those who know God ... love God, not the world
You cannot love the world and have the love of God in you as the two pull in opposite directions. |
| 4    | 42km Christians                           | 1 John 2:18–25| Those who know God ... persevere in the truth
Those who know God will persevere in the truth and, by doing so, inherit eternal life. |
| 5    | Outreach Week                             | 1 John 3:1–5  | An opportunity to bring friends so that they hear the gospel and experience the group. |
| 6    | Luv Is A Verb                              | 1 John 3:14–20| Those who know God ... love people to death
True love amongst those who know God is sacrificial – loving with actions, not words. |
| 7    | 100% Money Back Guarantee                 | 1 John 5:11–13| Those who know God ... can know they know God
We can be 100% sure as Christians that we have eternal life because it depends on God, not us. |
**Aim**

To encourage students that they can know God because Jesus has revealed what He is like.

**Preparation**

- Photocopy the ‘Week 1 Students’ page (page 18) for everyone.

**Fun Activity**

This activity is designed to get students thinking about revealing who you are.

**Truth** – get five students out the front. Allow 30 seconds for each of these students to think of two things that are true about themselves and one thing that is not true. Their aim is to make it as difficult as possible for others to distinguish what is not true from what is true. Get the five students to take turns in saying these things about themselves and have the rest of the group vote as to which they think are not true. Individuals can keep a point score for their winning votes if the group is competitive.

**Background**

Introduce the series and give some background information to 1 John. Encourage students to read 1 John at home during the term.

**Author?**

Written in 85-90 AD by John – one of Jesus’ close friends. John also wrote the gospel of John and Revelation.

**Discussion**

1. **If you were God, what would you do to let people know what you are like? Do you think God has clearly shown people what He is like?**

   *Note: Some students may suggest that God should make Himself clearer. If so, point out how true it is that we rely on God to ‘stand up’ and show Himself. Just as in the activity we relied on people to reveal true things about themselves, we also cannot know what God is truly like unless He reveals Himself to us. Yet John wants to tell us at the very start of this letter that God has not stayed hidden but has clearly shown us what He is like.*

2. **Ask students to look for the answer to Q2 as you read 1 John 1:1–5.**

   **What did God do to make sure we today can know He is real and what He is like (verses 1–4)?**

   *Note: John emphasises that the eternal God has appeared in Jesus.³ Jesus is 100% God – He is

   ³. It is likely that one of John’s primary intentions in this letter was to combat false teachers who denied the incarnation of Jesus as the Christ (that He could be both 100% God and 100% man).
‘from the beginning’ (verse 1), ‘the Word of life’ (verse 1), ‘the eternal life’ (verse 2), was ‘with the Father’ (verse 2) and is the Son of the Father (verse 3). Yet Jesus is also 100% man – He was heard, seen and touched (verses 1,2,3). God really did appear in time and history to the apostles and He has made sure their testimony is recorded for us in the Bible.

Point out that the reason John is passing on to his readers what he saw and heard is so that they could know or have fellowship with God (verse 3).

‘God is light; in him there is no darkness at all’ (verse 5). How do these words about God help explain why we cannot know Him without Jesus?

Note: The phrase ‘God is light’ points to the fact that God is morally perfect – there is no sin in Him and so He cannot have fellowship with us if we are sinful. Jesus’ perfect life and death on the cross for us deals with this problem – He takes our punishment for us. Thus it is only through Jesus that we can know God.

Which of the following best describe you:

- I know a lot about God but I am not sure if I know Him personally.
- This stuff is quite new to me.
- I have personally trusted that Jesus died for me so that I can know God.
- I do not want to trust Jesus.
- I think it is true that Jesus died for me but I have not taken the step to personally trust Him.
- I am not sure about whether I can trust Jesus.

Wrap up by encouraging students that they can personally know God through Jesus and not just know about Him. You may want to give them an opportunity to speak to you if they are not sure whether they do personally know God.

In small groups, give students time to thank God for showing Himself through Jesus. Also encourage them to pray that we will grow to know God more.

A helpful way to build accountability in your group is to keep students in the same small groups over the term. You may like to use this idea to form these groups.

Get everyone to take off one shoe and put them in a pile (you may want to do guys’ and girls’ shoes separately). Randomly pick out 3–4 shoes. The people they belong to are ‘boot-buddies’ for the rest of the term. Explain that this means they aim to specifically care and pray for one another at your CRU group and outside of the group.

Encourage students to read 1 John at home.
1 John 1:1–5

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

1 If you were God, what would you do to let people know what you are like? Do you think God has clearly shown people what He is like?

2 What did God do to make sure we today can know He is real and what He is like (verses 1–4)?

3 ‘God is light; in him there is no darkness at all’ (verse 5). How do these words about God help explain why we cannot know Him without Jesus?

4 Which of the following best describe you:

❑ I know a lot about God but I am not sure if I know Him personally.
❑ This stuff is quite new to me.
❑ I have personally trusted that Jesus died for me so that I can know God.
❑ I do not want to trust Jesus.
❑ I think it is true that Jesus died for me but I have not taken the step to personally trust Him.
❑ I am not sure about whether I can trust Jesus.

In small groups, thank God that He has shown Himself through Jesus. Pray that we will grow to know God more.