

## INTRO

- What do you think summer 2021 will look like?  
What do you *hope* it will look like?

## READ

John 20:30-31 and 1 John 5:13-21

## REFLECT &amp; RESPOND

John's purpose in his writings is so that we may *hear* the testimony of Jesus and, in hearing *believe*, in believing have *life*, and in having life, *know*. Amidst all the uncertainties of life, John wants those who are in Christ to be assured of these truths.

**1. That you may know you have eternal life**

*Qu: What do you associate eternal life with? Heaven?*

Jesus defines eternal life as the relationship with God you were created for (Jn 17:3).

**2. That you may know confidence in communion with God**

God hears, listens to and answers our prayers. Confidence grows from asking "according to his will". The habit of prayer is not something we master, but that deeply transforms us.

**3. That you may know you belong to God**

When you recognize *who* you are and *whose* you are in Christ, you will live a life consistent with your truest identity.

**4. That you may know God through Jesus**

We can know God personally because God has chosen to reveal himself to us through Jesus. The revelation and redemption of Jesus are God's gracious work towards us.

*"What makes life worthwhile is having a big enough objective, something which catches our imagination and lays hold of our allegiance, and this the Christian has in a way that no other person has. For what higher, more exalted, and*

*more compelling goal can there be than to know God?" — J.I. Packer, Knowing God*

*Qu: do you agree your greatest purpose in life is to know God? What implications will this have?*

For John therefore, to be a Christian is to have been born of God, to know God, to live in him, and to enjoy that intimate, personal communion with him which is eternal life.

**THEREFORE,**

*Little children, keep yourselves from anything that might take God's place in your life.*

In light of all God's responsibility towards us, we now have a responsibility to guard our authentic faith from the counterfeit. How?

**Guard your HEAD (thoughts; truth)**

- *What voices are loudest in my life?*
- *What's shaping my belief about God? Myself? Others? Life?*

**Guard your HEART (trust; desires)**

- *What's the posture of my heart?*
- *Who/What am I trusting in for my comfort? Security? Approval? Worth? Identity?*

**Guard your HANDS (habits; lifestyle)**

- *How is my lifestyle helping or harming my pursuit of Jesus and his way?*
- *How am I demonstrating love for another?*

**Authentic Faith means believing, loving and following Jesus in head, heart and hands.**

*Qu: Well done! We have finished 1 John together. What has been your biggest takeaway from the Authentic series? What have you been challenged to change in your life as a result?*

## PRAY

- In prayer, commit to God to live an authentic faith—head, heart, hands—that is Jesus-centred and Spirit-empowered.