

# Love is the Brand

## Week #5

### Small Group Notes

#### **Introduction:**

Ice breaker: Have you ever had to attend one of those “trust fall” team building exercises? Was it scary? Did they drop anybody? Tell us about it.

*One of the most common themes in 1 John has been assurance of salvation. In other words, how to know you for sure are a Christian. John has provided several tests throughout the whole book by which we can know the genuineness of our salvation. We have already seen some of those tests in earlier chapters: The test of obedience (1 John 1-2), The test of love for one another (1 John 3-4), and the test of theology, or correctly distinguishing the truth from lies (1 John 4). As John concludes the letter in Ch.5, he encouraged us yet again so that we can have assurance.*

#### **Discuss:**

1. 1 John 5:13

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

❖ **Read the following verses as a group and ask the questions:**

- **Hebrews 10:22**
- **2 Timothy 1:12**
- **John 6:47**
- **Ephesians 3:12**
  - **What is the common theme (or words) in these verses?**
  - **How do these verses help you to grow in your assurance?**

❖ **Why would the believers in John’s community need a reminder of eternal assurance? How does that kind of assurance inform how we live daily?**

- ❖ How do you feel about doubt in general? How should you respond when doubts arise in your heart?
- ❖ Do you struggle or have you ever struggled with assurance of salvation? Tell us about it.
- ❖ Do you know someone that struggles with assurance? How would you respond to them?

## 2. 1 John 5:14-15

Ask: 2-3 Discussion questions related to the content.

- ❖ **Take a moment as a group and read the following verses about prayer and ask the questions:**
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
  - Philippians 4:6
  - Romans 8:26
  - Colossians 4:2
    - What is the common theme that you see in these verses?
    - What does this tell us about prayer and growing in confidence?
- ❖ What role does prayer play in assurance? Should we pray even when we are struggling with doubt?
- ❖ Is John saying that God always gives us everything we pray for? Explain your answer.
- ❖ Though 1 John points to our obedience as evidence that we belong to Christ, what's the danger of making our own obedience the basis of our assurance?
- ❖ What else does scripture say about the confidence we have?
- ❖ What are things you can do daily to grow in your assurance of salvation?

Close:

- ❖ How does today's lesson specifically encourage you?
- ❖ What are some practical things you can do to help someone struggling?
- ❖ How can we be praying for one another?