

THE URBAN CHRISTIAN WOMAN

COMPLETE JOY

A Study of First, Second, & Third John





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LETTER FROM CO-HOSTS



There is no greater joy for the believer than discovering biblical insights firsthand through her own Bible study. While we love the rich topics and conversations we get to have on the airwaves, our ultimate joy is when you learn to feast on the Word of God for yourselves.

When you've walked with the Lord for a decade or more you see two things to be true: we have to be intentional to follow God and being in a church is messy. Not to mention church hurt, church exodus, platforming and celebrity pastors are issues we encounter daily now thanks to social media. It's easy to be connected to a leader you don't know personally and feel as if you're being led as it is to be unsure of whether you can root yourself in a local church. But thank the Lord we are not left without hope. God's Word gives us sure guidance through all these challenges and more, if we seek it.

"Complete Joy" is a 7-week in-depth study alongside our podcast community. Each week, we will journey through one chapter weekly in First, Second, and Third John.

During this study we will journey with John as he writes to churches surrounding Ephesus and to fellow believers. His desire is to remind them of what truly brings complete joy; walking in love, walking in the truth, and walking with other believers. Our desire is that you will join us and grow in your faith as we study God's Word together. So, what are you waiting for? Join us!

**XOXO,
LEAH & TE'SHEBA
CO-HOSTS**

THE URBAN CHRISTIAN WOMAN PODCAST

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Use this guide alongside The Urban Christian Woman Podcast week-to-week as we traverse through 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John.

TOOLS:

Prayer, pen/pencil & highlighter, Bible, dictionary, The Urban Christian Woman Podcast, a TUCW Companion Study Guide, a notebook to journal your thoughts, and internet for cross-referencing.

PRINTING:

In the guide everything is documented once for easy accessibility. We recommend that you print the guide once in its entirety. Feel free to reprint these as many times as needed to get you or a friend through 1st, 2nd, & 3rd John. There are 7 chapters that will be covered, so we recommend printing 7 copies of the Look, Listen, and Live pages.

Each podcast in our series “Complete Joy” features One chapter each. We’ve designed the Companion Guide so that you can walk through the chapters side-by-side. See the layout example on the following pages.

BACKGROUND

These books are general epistles (letters) written by the apostle John to the churches around Ephesus. First John was intended to be circulated to many churches and to be read aloud while 2nd John was written to a church and 3rd John was written to a church leader. John wrote with exhortations, warnings and corrections. He wrote to remind believers of what is central to the faith and life in the family of God and in the local church.

First, Second, and Third John are general epistles- letters written by John to/for the church in general. To gain a greater grasp of John and the church in Asia Minor, it will be helpful to listen/read the following New Testament gospel and letters: John, Ephesians and Acts. Read these three books with an eye for how the themes re-emphasize themes from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. The Gospel of John will help you understand John's writing style. Ephesians helps you understand the church, John's audience. Acts gives a glimpse of the key players in 3rd John and the DNA of how the church generally is meant to live in relationship together. Letters written to the church are no different than the framework for letter writing today. In a letter there is a sender, recipient(s), greeting, body, and closing. For a deeper understanding of the biblical genre, check out "Literarily: How Understanding Bible Genres Transforms Bible Study" by Kristie Anyabwile.

Themes:

- 1 John Walking in love
- 2 John Walking in the truth
- 3 John Walking in friendship

Genre: Epistle(letters)-

- First, Second, and Third John are general epistles- a letter written by John to/for the church in general.
- To gain a greater grasp of John and the church that he writes his letters to, it will be helpful to listen/read the following New Testament gospel and letters (i.e., John, Ephesians, and Acts). When reading these three books of the bible you are seeking to identify how John and the church emphasizes the themes from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. Keep in mind that the Gospel of John will allow you to understand the writer of the letter and how he writes. The Ephesian Letter will allow you to understand the church, John's audience. Acts will allow you to gain a glimpse of the key players in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John and the DNA of how the church is supposed to exist together.
- The Letters that are written to the church are no different than the framework we have for letter writing today. In a letter there is a sender, recipient, greeting, body, and closing.
- If you would like a better understanding of this genre, we recommend that you purchase "Literarily: How Understanding Bible Genres Transforms Bible Study" by Kristie Anyabwile.

Metanarrative of Scripture:

- Creation - Fall - Redemption - Restoration

Doctrine to Know:

- Salvation: Calling - Conversion - Justification - Endurance - Sanctification

Date: (~Around 80AD)



WEEK:

READING:

1. **LOOK** (OBSERVATION: WHAT DO I SEE?)

LIST ANY KEY PEOPLE:

**WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE TEXT
(WHAT ARE THE FACTS)?**

**WHEN AND WHERE IS THIS TAKING
PLACE?**

**WHAT THEMES DO YOU SEE IN THE
TEXT?**

WHAT ARE THE KEY VERSES?

**WHAT KEY TERMS DO YOU SEE?
DEFINE THEM.**

WHAT REPEATED WORDS DO YOU SEE?

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WEEK:

READING:

2. **LISTEN** (WHAT DID THIS MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE?)

ARE THERE VERSES FROM OTHER BOOKS OF THE BIBLE OR CHAPTERS THAT EXPAND YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEXT?

SUMMARIZE THE PASSAGE IN 3-4 COMPLETE SENTENCES.

WHAT METANARRATIVE THEME OF SCRIPTURE DO YOU IDENTIFY IN THE TEXT(CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, RESTORATION)? CONNECT THE THEME WITH THE VERSE(S).

WHAT DOCTRINES DO YOU IDENTIFY IN THIS TEXT? CONNECT THE DOCTRINES WITH THE VERSE(S).



WEEK:

READING:

3. **LIVE:** (HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?)

SPIRITUAL:

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE TEACH ME ABOUT GOD? (ATTRIBUTE OF GOD REVEALED IN THE TEXT)

PERSONAL:

IS THERE SIN I NEED TO CONFESS, A PROMISE I NEED TO CLAIM, AN EXAMPLE I NEED TO FOLLOW, A COMMAND I NEED TO OBEY, OR KNOWLEDGE I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LORD? (*FROM THE NAVIGATORS MINISTRY)

SOCIAL/CULTURAL:

HOW AM I CALLED TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS IN LIGHT OF THIS PASSAGE? WHAT ENCOURAGEMENTS, WARNINGS OR WISDOM ARE RELEVANT FOR MY CONTEXT? HOW SHOULD I RESPOND IN LIGHT OF THEM?

ECCLESIAL:

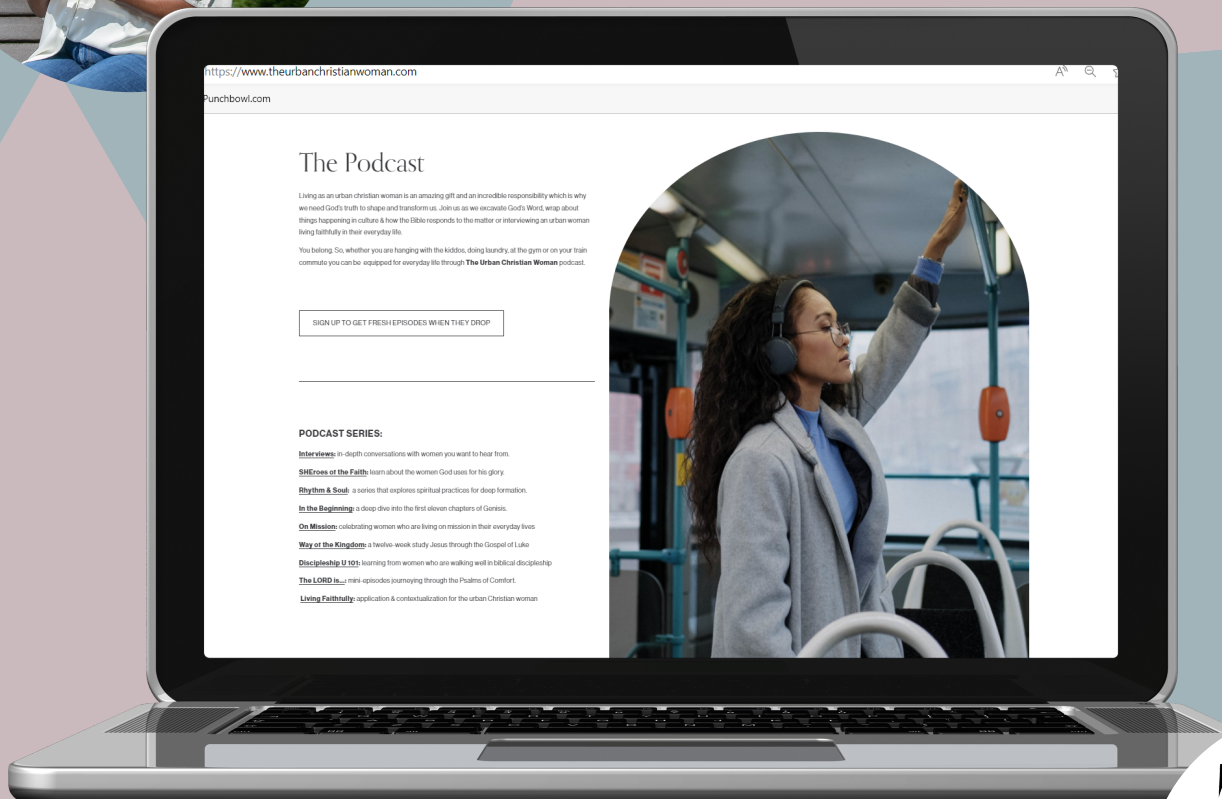
HOW IS GOD CALLING ME TO RESPOND WITHIN THE LIFE OF MY LOCAL CHURCH IN LIGHT OF THIS PASSAGE?

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