

Connect

Think of a time you had to follow instructions perfectly because the stakes were high (like assembling furniture, cooking for a huge crowd, or navigating a dangerous road). Was there a moment when you had to use your own intuition instead of following instructions? How did it turn out?

Verses - 1 John 5:1-5 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of him. 2 This is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God and obey his commands. 3 For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, 4 because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith. 5 Who is the one who conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study: **Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses.**

1. According to v.1, what is the requirement to be "born of God"? What is the expected result of this new birth regarding how we treat others?

2. According to v.2, how can we realize or "know" that our love for others is genuine?

3. Why is it easier to obey God's commands according to v.4? What brings about that victory? (vv.4-5) What are His commands? (1 John 3:23)

4. How does our faith equate to victory in conquering the world? (1 John 4:4) How does it equate to loving each other? (1 John 4:11)

Share: DISCUSS

Pastor Takeshi mentioned that while anyone can love others, God's love comes from a different and new nature through Him.

Philippians 2:7 says Jesus "*...emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness.*" But with God in us, He now changes us!

What does this change do to us, and how does it affect our relationship towards others?

What will loving others in His likeness look like? (Romans 5:8) What is a practical way you can do that in your life?

Minister to one another sharing specific prayer requests.