

Connect

Have you ever contemplated buying something but it took some time to decide one way or the other? What made you think it was worth buying it?

Verses - 1 John 5:18-21 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not sin, but the one who is born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one. 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know the true one. We are in the true one – that is, in his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

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

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

1. In v.18 who is it that keeps the believer? How? Because of this protection, what is the "evil one" unable to do? (Note the protection promised here.)

2. According to verse 20, what specific thing has the Son of God given us, and what is the exact purpose of receiving it?

3. Based on verse 20, where does John say believers currently reside ("We are in..."), and who exactly is this "true one"?

4. What is the final, brief command John gives to the believers in verse 21 and how does it connect with v.20?

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DISCUSS 1

Pastor Takeshi used the illustration of a children's playpen to describe how Jesus protects us from the serious attacks of the enemy, while still allowing us to face manageable challenges so we can grow. Looking back at a recent challenge or "fall" in your life, how does seeing it as a protected environment designed for your spiritual growth change your perspective on God's care for you?

DISCUSS 2

Using an example from his pre-marriage counseling, Pastor Takeshi talked about how we often try to squeeze others—and God—into our ideal picture of how our life, work, or home should look. He challenged us to throw away our own picture and enter into the picture God is painting. What is one specific area of your life right now where you feel challenged to let go of your "ideal picture" and step into God's truth?

Minister to one another sharing specific prayer requests.