WEEK NINE:

1 JOHN 3:1-3

Reflect

Use one or both questions for private reflection and choose one to begin meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

R1 **When you were growing up, who did you want to be like? What did you admire about them?**

R2 **Why do you think we spend so much time thinking about what we want to accomplish and so little about the kind of person we want to become?**

Grow in the Word

These questions are designed to guide your personal study or center spiritual conversation in your Life Group. Move slowly, and don't feel pressure to cover every question.

Children of God

John begins by drawing attention to the great love God has shown his people. He calls them children of God and emphasizes that this is who they really are. John also explains that the world does not recognize God's children because it did not know God.

Read 1 John 3:1

G1 **What does John want his readers to understand about God's love and their identity as His children?**

G2 **When you think about who you are, what roles, achievements, shortcomings, or labels tend to define you? How might being God's child change the way you see yourself?**

G3 **John says the world does not know God's children because it did not know Him. How might this truth help when you feel misunderstood or seek the approval of others?**

Bring Others to Jesus

John reminds his readers that although they are already God's children, they have not yet become all that they will be. When Jesus appears, they will see him as he is and become like him. John then connects this hope of seeing Jesus with the pursuit of purity.

Read 1 John 3:2-3

G4 **What does John say is already true of believers, and what does he promise is still to come?**

G5 **According to verse 3, how should the hope of becoming like Jesus shape the way we live today?**

G6 **How does God's promise to make us like Jesus encourage you when you struggle with things about yourself that you wish would change?**

Practice Together

John reminds us that we are already God's children, though we have not yet become all that we will be. One day we will be like Jesus, and this hope is meant to shape the way we live today. John says that everyone who has this hope purifies themselves, just as Jesus is pure.

P1 **Think about an area of your life where your attitudes, desires, or actions don't yet reflect Jesus. What would pursuing purity look like in that area this week?**

Take time to pray, thanking God for his love and asking him to continue shaping you into the likeness of Jesus.