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## Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

### Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

**Bible Reading:** 1 John 5:13-21

### Sermon Summary:

It's not an uncommon experience for followers of Jesus to have their faith shaken. In most cases, with proper counsel & care from other believers, we make it through. John was writing to & caring for people in his churches who were experiencing a massive shake up to their faith. Some prominent people among them no longer believed that Jesus was God, or that his death was effective in atoning for sins, & they had 'new information' that said otherwise. The departure of this group ruptured a community that previously enjoyed sweet harmony & communion with God & one another. How does John help them navigate these waters? By assuring them of what they have through eternal life (v. 13). He concludes this letter by bolstering their faith based on these divine assurances.

### Discussion:

1. John uses the words "we know" seven times in this section. Why does he do that?

2. What assurance does John give us about our prayers (v. 14-15)? Have you ever thought, “My prayer was not answered”? How would you answer yourself now?
3. John addresses what to do when you see a Christian sinning. What does he say to do?
4. John touches on what to do when you see someone committing “sin unto death.” (v. 16b) What is his counsel? What is the “sin unto death”? Has this caused you concern in the past?
5. John continues on with his assurances by saying that God protects us & we can’t be touched by the evil one. How does that assure you? What does it look like? (vv. 18-19)
6. What does John say is one of the main things Jesus did for us in v. 20? What did that look like in your experience?
7. John concludes his letter by telling his readers to guard themselves against idols. It may seem like that command came out of the blue. But when we see idols as god-substitutes, how is that relevant in terms of what those who left were doing?
8. Talk about the “good things” in life that can become “God-things” if we aren’t careful.

**End with Prayer.**

- Pray we see Jesus as he is & for all he has done, & we don’t accept any false gods.
- Pray for one another’s concerns.