Precept™

In and Out ESV

1 John and 2 & 3 John

How to Know You Have Eternal Life

Know God deeply. Live differently.

Greetings from Precept,

We are so glad you've chosen to study God's Word. You're in for a rich time learning about God, His character, His ways, and the relationship we have with Him. We're confident God's Word will give you the knowledge and the motivation to help you walk in a manner worthy of your calling in Christ Jesus and that you'll be personally challenged, encouraged, and changed by the power of His supernatural Word.

We'd like to stay in touch with you so that we can tell you about the wonderful things God is doing through Precept. Will you connect with us? We want to hear your story of how God's Word has impacted you by studying Inductively.

Visit the Precept Africa website at www.precept.org.za or join us on *Facebook* at *Precept Africa*.

Finally, we want to thank you for your commitment to faithfully study God's Word in order to ***"present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth"*** (2 Timothy 2:15 *NASB*). We share a special bond with you because of our love of God's Word.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

The Precept Team

ESV

IN & OUT®

English Standard Version

1 John and 2&3 John

How to Know You Have Eternal Life

Originally published as:
1 JOHN AND 2&3 JOHN
How to Know You Have Eternal Life

In & Out®

English Standard Version

1 JOHN
and
2&3 JOHN

How to Know You Have Eternal Life

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2017—1st Edition

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Printed in South Africa
October 2026







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"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you . . ."

Oh, how those who claim to be Christians need the message of John's three letters!

TAKING IT IN

God's Word is truth and it cannot be comprehended merely by natural means. God's truth is revealed by His Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-14). Therefore, whenever you study God's Word, begin with prayer, asking God by His Spirit to open the eyes of your understanding and to lead you and guide you into truth.

In this week's lesson, you will be doing an **overview** of 1 John. The purpose of the overview is to help you see the context of the book and, thus, how the author achieves his purpose for writing. This lesson will lay the foundation for all the other lessons.

1. Using the Observation Worksheets located in the Appendix, read 1 John 1:1-4 and circle *we.* What do you learn about "we"?

Although the author's name is not mentioned in this book, it has been accepted since the early church fathers that the Apostle John is the author. John had been with Jesus—seen Him, touched Him. You can read more about this when you are directed to do commentary work.

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2. Now read all of 1 John and mark each use of *write* and *writing*. Then answer the following.

   a. Why did John write what he did?

   b. What did he say he wrote about?

   c. Who did he write to?

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3. Read 1 John again. Mark each mention of those John is writing to, the recipients. You might shade them orange. Notice the pronouns "you" and "your."

   Summarize below what you learn about them.

4. Now read 1 John two times and mark the following key words, each one in a distinctive way.

   a. The first time you read 1 John, mark *sin** and *know.*

   b. The second time, mark *love** and *abide.*

   *Indicates words with marking suggestions on the back of this workbook.

5. In the Appendix, you'll find "1 John at a Glance." An At a Glance chart is a tool that helps you "see" the overview of a book.

   You've already marked and answered some questions about why John wrote, what he wrote, and who he wrote this letter to. Now review number two to see what you learned about *write* and *writing.* Then do the following:

   a. Record why John wrote in the space provided for the "Purpose" on the "1 John at a Glance" chart.

   b. Read 1 John 5:13 again. Record what John wrote about in the space provided for the Book Theme on the "1 John at a Glance" chart.

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c. What was happening when John wrote this letter? Record this under "Historical setting" on "1 John at a Glance."

6. Now that we have the overview, the big picture of 1 John, let's see what 2 and 3 John say.

   We'll begin by observing 2 John.

   a. Use the 2 John Observation Worksheet at the end of this lesson. Look for words you marked in 1 John, along with the following:

      1) *love**
      2) *truth*
      3) *abide*
      4) *Father**
      5) *Jesus Christ**
      6) *walk*

   b. At the end of this lesson, you'll find "2 John at a Glance."

      1) Using words from the text, summarize the book theme or main subject of the letter.

      2) Now summarize the theme or main subject of the paragraphs listed on the At a Glance chart. Again, use words from the text.

      3) Why do you think this letter was written? Record this under "Purpose" on "2 John at a Glance."

      4) Does the text tell you anything about the Historical Setting of 2 John? If so, record it on "2 John at a Glance."

   c. How does 2 John compare with 1 John?

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7. Now let's move to 3 John.

   a. Observe the letter, using the Observation Worksheet at the end of this lesson. As you do, mark the following:

      1) *love**
      2) *truth*
      3) *walk*
      4) *testified, testimony*

   b. Fill out "3 John at a Glance."

   c. How does it compare with 1 and 2 John?

LIVING IT OUT

Well friend, now you understand the basic messages of 1, 2, and 3 John, which will help you keep their truths in context.

As you have studied this week, has God spoken to you in any particular way? If so, how?

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2 JOHN
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth,
2 because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever:
3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.
4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.
5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.
6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.
7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.
8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.
9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.
10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,
11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.

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12 Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

13 The children of your elect sister greet you.

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2 JOHN AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Author:

Purpose:

Key Words:

Historical Setting:

Paragraph Themes
1-2
3
4
7-12
13

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3 JOHN
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

5 Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are,

6 who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.

7 For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

9 I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.

10 So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

11 Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

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12 Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

13 I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink.

14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

15 Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

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3 JOHN AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Author:

Purpose:

Key Words:

Historical Setting:

Paragraph Themes
1
2-4
5-8
9-10
11-12
13-14
15

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Appendix

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EXPLANATIONS OF THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION BIBLE TEXT FORMAT

Paragraphs are designated by bold face numbers or letters. These were determined by the translators.

In the New Testament, **Old Testament quotes** are indented.

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1 JOHN 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THAT which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—
2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—
3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.
5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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1 JOHN 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

MY little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not
sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus
Christ the righteous.
2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the
sins of the whole world.
3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his
commandments.
4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a
liar, and the truth is not in him,
5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.
By this we may know that we are in him:
6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which
he walked.
7 Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old
commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment
is the word that you have heard.
8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you,
which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining.
9 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.
10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no
cause for stumbling.
11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the
darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness
has blinded his eyes.

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12 I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.
13 I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.
I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.
14 I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.
19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.
21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

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22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.
23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.
24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.
26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.
27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.
28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.
29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

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1 JOHN 3
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SEE what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called
children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not
know us is that it did not know him.
2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet
appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him,
because we shall see him as he is.
3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.
4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness;
sin is lawlessness.
5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there
is no sin.
6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on
sinning has either seen him or known him.
7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness
is righteous, as he is righteous.
8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has
been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared
was to destroy the works of the devil.
9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides
in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of
God.
10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the
children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of
God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.
11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we
should love one another.

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12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.
13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.
14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.
15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.
17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?
18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
19 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;
20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.
21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;
22 and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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1 JOHN 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

BELOVED, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,
3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.
6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.
7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

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13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.
18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.
19 We love because he first loved us.
20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.
21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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1 JOHN 5
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

EVERYONE who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of
God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born
of him.
2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God
and obey his commandments.
3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his
commandments are not burdensome.
4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this
is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that
Jesus is the Son of God?
6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the
water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who
testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
7 For there are three that testify:
8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.
9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for
this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.
10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself.
Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not
believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.
11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is
in his Son.
12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God
does not have life.

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13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God
that you may know that you have eternal life.
14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask
anything according to his will he hears us.
15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we
have the requests that we have asked of him.
16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he
shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do
not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one
should pray for that.
17 All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death.
18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on
sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one
does not touch him.
19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power
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 him who is true; and we are in him
who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

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1 JOHN AT A GLANCE

Book Theme

Author:

Date:

Key Words:

Purpose:

Historical Setting:

Chapter Themes
1
2
3
4
5

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What I Can Know	How I Can Know It

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HOW TO DO A CHAPTER STUDY
LET'S GET STARTED!

*A **chapter study** helps you to focus in on the details in the chapter to better understand what the author is saying. Each of the skills is used to bring important points to light.*

- LOOK FOR THE 5 Ws AND H

  Read the text asking the 5 Ws and H—*Who*, *What*, *When*, *Where*, *Why*, *How*. For example, when studying John 1, read the text asking questions like:

  Who is this about?
  When?
  Where was the Word?
  Who was the Word?
  What did the Word do?

  Don't expect every verse or chapter to answer all the 5 Ws and H about a particular subject or person, but you should read with a questioning mind-set.

- MARK KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

  Marking key words and phrases and making lists help you to answer the 5 Ws and H.

  KEY WORDS are repeated words within a text which are vital to its meaning.

  Mark in a distinctive way each key word or phrase in the chapter along with its pronouns and synonyms. Use colors and/or symbols.

  Example: ***Word*** is a repeated word that is key to understanding John 1.

- LISTS

  The next step is to list what the chapter says about each of the key words. Look at each place you marked a key word and list what the text says.

  A LIST is a compilation of the facts given about a particular word or person. It gives the 5 Ws and H (who, what, when, where, why, how) about that word or person. Use words from the text.

  A list about the ***Word*** from John 1 begins this way:

  was in the beginning, v. 1
  was with God, v. 1
  was God, v. 1
  was in the beginning with God, v. 2

- MARK AND EVALUATE:

  CONTRASTS — point out differences. To mark a contrast, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as .

  John 1:17 *For the **Law** was given through Moses; **grace** and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*

  But, *however*, or *nevertheless* might indicate a contrast.

  John 4:2: *…Jesus Himself was not baptizing, **but** His disciples were….*

  COMPARISONS — point out similarities. To mark a comparison, put a symbol in the margin by the verse(s), such as .

  John 10:9 *I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved....*

  Sometimes *like* or *as* indicate a comparison.

  John 3:14-15: ***As** Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.*

  TERMS OF CONCLUSION — show that a conclusion or summary is being made. These help us understand *why*. Look for the words signifying a conclusion or result such as ***therefore***, *for this reason*, and *finally*.

  John 12:50: *I know that His commandment is eternal life; **therefore** the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.* 

  EXPRESSIONS OF TIME — give timing, sequence of events, or progression. Look for words such as *then*, *after*, *when*, *until*, t*he day of....*

  John 1:2 *He was **in the beginning** with God.* 

- DENTIFY SUBJECTS OR THEMES

  Identify main subjects, events, or points of a chapter by observing it paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs can be shown with boldface type for the first verse number of a paragraph, by a paragraph symbol, or by an indention at the beginning of a paragraph.

  Read each paragraph, and in the margin list the event, subject, or main point of the paragraph.

  John 1:6-8

  John testified about the Light

  6 *There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.*
  7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.
  8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

To learn more about doing a chapter study and other inductive Bible study skills, we encourage you to keep on hand a copy of *How to Study Your Bible*. If you don't yet have a copy, you can order one by visiting shop.precept.org.za or calling +27(021) 531 1836.

ABOUT PRECEPT

PRECEPT was raised up by God for the sole purpose of establishing people in God's Word to produce reverence for Him. It serves as an arm of the church without respect to denomination. God has enabled Precept to reach across denominational lines without compromising the truths of His inerrant Word. We believe every word of the Bible was inspired and given to man as all that is necessary for him to become mature and thoroughly equipped for every good work of life. This ministry does not seek to impose its doctrines on others, but rather to direct people to the Master Himself, who leads and guides by His Spirit into all truth through a systematic study of His Word. The ministry produces a variety of Bible studies and holds conferences and intensive Training Workshops designed to establish attendees in the Word through Inductive Bible Study.

Jack Arthur and his wife, Kay, founded Precept in 1970. Kay and the ministry staff of writers produce *Precept Upon Precept* studies, *In & Out* studies, *Lord* series studies, the *New Inductive Study Series* studies, *40-Minute* studies, and *Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids*. From years of diligent study and teaching experience, Kay and the staff have developed these unique, inductive courses that are now used in nearly 185 countries and 70 languages.

ANSWERING THE CALL

Now that you've studied and prayerfully considered the scriptures, is there something new for you to believe or do, or did it move you to make a change in your life? It's one of the many amazing and supernatural results of being in His life-changing Word—God speaks to us. At Precept South Africa, we believe that we have heard God speak about our part in the Great Commission. He has told us in His Word to make disciples by teaching people how to study His Word. If you share our passion for establishing people in God's Word, we invite you to join us! Will you prayerfully consider giving monthly to the ministry? To do so, you can make a payment online at *precept.org.za/Support_Us* or make a direct deposit into our account:

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