Precept™

In and Out NAS

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

IN & OUT®

1 John and 2&3 John

How to Know You Have Eternal Life

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1 JOHN AND 2&3 JOHN
How to Know You Have Eternal Life

In & Out®

1 JOHN
and
2&3 JOHN
How to Know You Have Eternal Life

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CONTENTS

PAGE	LESSONS
1	LESSON ONE: "What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you . . ."
15	LESSON TWO: Walking in Light or in Darkness
21	LESSON THREE: How Can a Holy God Pardon Sin?
27	LESSON FOUR: "Do not love the world . . ."
33	LESSON FIVE: Children of God and Children of the Devil
39	LESSON SIX: Love
47	LESSON SEVEN: Overcoming

APPENDIX

54	Explanations of the New American Standard Bible Text Format
55	Observation Worksheets
67	1 John at a Glance
69	What I Can Know and How I Can Know It

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"What we have seen and heard we proclaim 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, written,* 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, written, 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 chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,

2 for the sake of the truth which 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 Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I was very glad to find *some* of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment *to do* from the Father.

5 Now I ask you, lady, not as though *I were* writing to you a new commandment, but the one which 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, that you should walk in it.

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he 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, and do not give him a greeting;

11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

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12 Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to *do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full.

13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

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2 JOHN AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Paragraph Themes
Author:	**1-3**
Purpose:	**4-6**
Key Words:	**7-11**
	12
Historical Setting:	**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 in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

3 For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, *that is,* how you are walking in truth.

4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

5 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially *when they are* strangers;

6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

8 Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

10 For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire *to do so* and puts *them* out of the church.

11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

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

13 I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write *them* to you with pen and ink;

14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face.

15 Peace *be* to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends 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 NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE TEXT FORMAT

Italics are used in the text to indicate words which are not found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek but implied by it.

Small caps in the New Testament are used in the text to indicate Old Testament quotations or obvious references to Old Testament texts. It should be noted that modern rules for the indication of direct quotation were not used in biblical times; thus, the ancient writer would use exact quotations or references to quotation without specific indication of such.

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

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1 JOHN 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

WHAT was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself 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 that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that 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. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus
Christ the righteous;
2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only,
but also for *those of* the whole world.
3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His
commandments.
4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His
commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;
5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been
perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:
6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same
manner as He walked.
7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old
commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old
commandment is the word which you have heard.
8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is
true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the
true Light is already shining.
9 The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the
darkness until now.
10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause
for stumbling in him.

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11 But the one who 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.

12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written 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 nor 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 lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out,* so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.

21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

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22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

26 These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

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1 JOHN 3
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SEE how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and 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 sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

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11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;
12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.
13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.
14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who 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 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?
18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.
19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him
20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
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 the things that are pleasing in His sight.
23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this 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, because 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, of which you have heard that it is coming, and
now it is already in the world.
4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because
greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
5 They are from the world; therefore they speak *as* from the world, and
the world listens to them.
6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who 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 everyone
who loves is born of God and knows God.
8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His
only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
10 In this is love, not that we 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.

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12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.
13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the 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 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in 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, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
19 We love, because He first loved us.
20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one 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, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

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1 JOHN 5
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

WHOEVER believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.
2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.
3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.
4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit 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 the three are in agreement.
9 If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.
10 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son.
11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.
12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

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13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

14 This is the confidence which we have before 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 which we have asked from Him.

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not *leading* to death, he shall ask and *God* will for him give life to those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is a sin *leading* to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not *leading* to death.

18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and that 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. This is the true God and eternal life.

21 Little children, guard 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:

PRECEPT MINISTRIES
Standard Bank, Rondebosch Branch
Acc Nr: 078 203 716
Reference: ATC and your name.

Please pray about how the Lord might lead you to answer the call.

PURCHASE WITH PURPOSE

When you buy books, studies, videos and audios, please purchase from Precept through our online store (precept.org.za/online store). We realize you may find some of these materials at a lower price through for-profit etailers, but when you buy through us, the proceeds support the work that we do to:

- Translate more studies into other languages
- Support efforts in South Africa and throughout Africa
- Train pastors and Bible Study Leaders in South Africa and Africa
- Equip people of all ages with Bible Study skills that transform lives

When you buy from Precept, you help to establish people in God's Word!