**PATERNITY TEST RESULTS**

**1 John 2:28-3:10**

**THE BIG IDEA: Christians can look forward with to the return of Christ because God has promised His children a glorious future and has empowered us to overcome sin.**

**THOSE WHO \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

* *“So now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is right has been born of him.”* (1 John 2:28-29)
* **Jesus is coming back one day, and when He does, those who are God’s true children won’t carry any shame or fear.**
* **Being in Christ means you have nothing to fear about His return, but instead see His return as something to celebrate.**

**THE LOVE OF GOD FOR HIS CHILDREN PROVIDES THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF A GLORIOUS FUTURE**

* *“See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God’s children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn’t know him. 2 Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.”* (1 John 3:1-3)
* **While we are in the process of glorification (becoming more like Jesus) now, our glorification will be fully realized when we stand before Jesus face to face.**
* *“We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.”* (2 Corinthians 3:18)
* **God’s love for us and His promise of our future far exceed anything our finite human minds can imagine.**
* *“What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived — God has prepared these things for those who love him.”* (1 Corinthians 2:9)

**THOSE WHO REMAIN IN CHRIST CAN AND WILL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THE POWER OF SIN IN THEIR LIVES**

* *“You know that He was revealed so that He might take away sins, and there is no sin in Him. 6 Everyone who remains in Him does not sin; everyone who sins has not seen Him or known Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 The one who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil’s works. 9 Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. 10 This is how God’s children and the devil’s children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister.” (1 John 3:5-10)*
* **Because Jesus came to “take away the sins of the world”, those who remain in sin are in direct opposition to Jesus. (See John 1:29; 1 John 3:5)**
* *“What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? 2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”* (Romans 6:1-2)
* **When we are continually being filled with God’s Spirit through seeking Him, we will consequently have less and less room for sinful desires to reside within us.**
* *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.”* (Galatians 5:22-23)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** What is one thing you want to do before Jesus returns?

**Start Thinking:**

* + What do you learn about God/Jesus from 1 John 2:28-3:10?
  + What does John mean by saying Christians don’t need to be ashamed when Christ returns?
  + What does God promise His children for the future?
  + How does John contrast Children of God and Children of the devil?

**Digging Deeper:**

* + Why is it important to abide/remain in Christ?
  + What goes through your mind when you think about Christ’s return? Explain your thoughts.
  + How does it make you feel knowing that God promises His children a future beyond what our minds can fathom?
  + How does knowing you will stand before Jesus inspire you to live right/holy?
  + What is the fruit of being filled with the Holy Spirit? (See Galatians 5:22-23) How does this help us overcome sin?