

## BIG IDEA

**Confidence is the result of a right relationship with God.**

## WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

As you reflect on your life, what relationships have increased your confidence the most?  
What stands out to you about these relationships?

**Read 1 John 5:13-21.** What key words or phrases can you identify in this passage?  
Explain your answer.

Your group members may notice that John speaks a lot about what **“we know,”** what **“we ask”** and what we are **“confident”** in. Some group members may be tripped up by verses 16-17. While this passage is unusual, do your best to keep the conversation from getting sidetracked by these highly-debated verses. The overarching point of this text is highlighting the confidence believers have in God to pray for ourselves and others. Encourage your group to keep an eye on the Central Teaching Blog for a post from Jeremy on 1 John 5:16-17 if they would like to learn more about this passage.

**Central Teaching Blog:** <http://blog.centralaz.com>

According to this passage, where does John’s confidence in approaching God come from?

A closer look at 1 John 5:13-14 shows that John connects his confidence in approaching God in prayer with his knowledge of having eternal life and confidence that God *hears* us when we come to him.

Have you ever thought about the fact that non-believers will sometimes pray? At times of great desperation and trouble, those who do not believe that God exists will offer up a prayer on the off chance that there is a God who might hear them and respond to their need. Sometimes, those who believe in God approach prayer the same way.  
**Sometimes, we pray as if we are not sure whether God is really listening.**

## WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Do you share John’s confidence in approaching God? Why or why not?

What has shaken your confidence when it comes to prayer?

**Re-read 1 John 5:13-14.** Do the prayers you pray have eternity in mind? How might an eternal perspective change the way that you pray?





# LIFE GROUPS

## LEADER GUIDE

When we are no longer worried about whether or not we are saved, we can start to see every area of our lives with an eternal perspective. Our eternal security in God becomes the backdrop of our entire worldview- we are confident in God's love for us and that whatever happens on this side of eternity, we will eventually get to be with him forever. When we know that God has our eternity in mind when he responds to our prayers, we also begin to see the bigger picture. We might even begin to pray different kinds of prayers- prayers that move beyond our wants and desires.

What have you been afraid to ask God to do on your behalf? What might happen if he said yes? If he said no?

Do you tend to follow-through with your prayers, expecting God to come through (in his timing)? How could confidence in God change the way you pray?

Having confidence in God doesn't mean that we view him as a Divine Vending Machine. We don't come before God making demands and expecting him to do whatever we tell him. Instead, confidence in God should lead us to persistence and awareness. We might live everyday expecting him to act on our behalf, open to the possibility that his response may be totally different than what we had in our mind. Confidence in God should lead believers to live everyday with the question in mind, "God, what are you up to in this situation?"

### WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

How will you steward your prayer life differently in light of this discussion?

**Read Acts 4:13.** Would you expect someone to describe the way that Peter and John are described in this passage? Why or why not?

Identify a friend or family member who models confidence in their faith walk. How can you engage them this week to develop confidence in your own relationship with Christ?

