



Starting Point: Week 4

1 John 2:12-14

QUESTIONS:

1. **Spiritual Maturity: Where are you?**

- John addresses three groups: children, young men, and fathers. Which of these do you identify with spiritually? Why?
- Reflecting on spiritual maturity, do you see areas where you've grown, or do you recognize areas where you need to grow?

2. **Forgiveness and Fatherhood**

- Verse 12 says, "Your sins have been forgiven on account of His name." How does understanding God's forgiveness affect your life and relationships?
- John also says, "You have a Father" (verse 14). How does this view of God as your Father impact your relationship with Him, especially if you've experienced challenges with earthly father figures?

3. **Fathers: Wisdom and Purpose**

- John's letter emphasizes that fathers (spiritually mature individuals) have purpose. What role do you think spiritually mature individuals (whether older or not) play in the growth of the church and the next generation?
- How can you contribute if you are in this "fatherly or motherly" stage, regardless of your age?

4. **Young Men (and Women)**

- In verse 14, John tells young men and women that they are strong and have overcome the evil one. What does spiritual strength look like in today's world?
- How can you build on this strength in your everyday life?
- Reflect on the idea of the church being a "battleship" instead of a cruise ship. How can we actively engage in spiritual battles, particularly in our own lives, relationships, and communities?

5. **Spiritual Growth: Going Deeper into the Gospel**

- Spiritual growth doesn't come from doing more things but from going deeper into the Gospel. What does "going deeper into the Gospel" mean to you? How can you prioritize this in your life moving forward?
- What are some ways you can commit to growing deeper in your relationship with Jesus this week?

Application and Prayer

• **Action Step:**

- **Children in Christ:** If you're feeling spiritually immature or stuck, consider how understanding God's forgiveness can help you move forward in your faith. Take time this week to remind yourself of God's forgiveness and His love.
- **Fathers in Christ:** If you are spiritually mature, reflect on how you can mentor and invest in others. Do you have someone you can walk alongside in their journey with God?
- **Young Men/Women in Christ:** Embrace the strength you have through the Holy Spirit and fight spiritual battles, not by your own strength, but through God's power in you.

