

**Adult Group Study Guide for December 27, 2020**  
***Your Chances of Going to Heaven?***  
**1 John 5:1-15**

Goal: To gain a confidence in the grace of God that frees us to overcome the world.

Key Verse: *Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.* – 1 John 5:5 (NIV2011)

1. The comedy TV series, *The Good Place*, was created on the assumption that all humans are sent to “the Good Place” or “the Bad Place” after death based on a numerical score calculated on the morality of their conduct on earth. Unfortunately, no one is good enough to get into “the Good Place.” What is the danger of trying to calculate our chances of getting into heaven based on our behavior?
2. Read 1 John 5:1-5. The Bible teaches that our salvation depends on what we believe about Jesus Christ. However, our belief must go beyond the facts about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to our trust in him and our love for him and our neighbor. Read John 3:16-18 and Romans 10:9-13. How would you explain what type of “believing” is necessary for our salvation?
3. Read 1 John 5:11-12 and Ephesians 2:8-9. The Bible describes salvation as a “gift” – God has given us eternal life that is not based on anything that we do. How would you explain the relationship between what God has done for us and what we do in response?
4. Read 1 John 5:13-15 and Romans 10:13. John concluded his gospel by writing in John 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” As he closes his first letter, he is talking to those who have put their faith in Jesus. On what basis can we be confident of our salvation?
5. Read Romans 6:1-7. In this chapter Paul takes on the difficult question of how we should respond to the good news that all our sins are forgiven. What would you say to someone who tells you that assurance of salvation is just a license to sin? What is the appropriate response to the grace that God gives us?
6. Read 1 John 3:19-24 and Ephesians 3:12. The assurance of salvation should not lead to arrogance or judging others harshly or isolation from the world, but rather a confidence in God that frees us from fear. How will this confidence affect the way that you relate to others this coming week?