

**1 John 3:1–4:6**

**Memory Verse:** *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work* (1 John 3:8a NIV).

**Lesson Helps:**

Two possible lesson aims for this week:

1. My students will learn the purpose of the two appearances of Christ, so that they will choose to put away sin from their lives and practice righteousness (based on 1 John 2:28–3:10). Notice the references to the first appearance of the Son of God in 1 John 3:5 and 3:8. According to John, what was the purpose of this first appearance? Notice the references to Christ's future appearing in 1 John 2:28 and 3:2. According to John, how should we live in the light of both of these appearances of Christ? The memory verse fits well with this aim.
2. My students will learn how to distinguish between truth and falsehood in spiritual matters, so that they will exercise discernment and remain in the truth (based on 1 John 4:1-6). According to John, what are two tests we can use to distinguish between true and false prophets or between truth and error? (Hint: For the second of these tests, see if you can determine the identity of "you," "they," and "we" in verses 4-6.) With this aim, consider using the illustration of counterfeit money again from last week's lesson. How can we distinguish between the genuine and the counterfeit?

Also, see last week's forecast with its suggestion of using one aim for the entire three-week study of 1 John: My students will learn three marks of a born again Christian, so that they will determine to exhibit each of these marks in their own lives, thus strengthening their assurance of new birth.

**Assignment:**

📖 Read 1 John 4:7–5:21.

📖 Memorize 1 John 5:12 NIV.