

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Absolutely Sure
Stand-alone Sermon

ICEBREAKER: What do you suspect people say about you behind your back?

OVERVIEW: Are you 100% sure that you are saved? This is called the doctrine of assurance of salvation. Assurance of salvation is the undoubted certainty that a person belongs to Christ, possesses saving grace, and will ultimately enjoy everlasting salvation. In this study we will go deeper with this doctrine and learn how to develop assurance in ourselves and others.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. The epistle of 1 John is perhaps the most helpful tool in the Bible for assessing your spiritual condition. You might call it John's Handy Dandy Lie Detector. Its purpose is to help us determine whether our salvation is real or phony. What do the following verses teach about assurance of salvation?
 - 1 John 2:3-6
 - 1 John 3:17-24
 - 1 John 5:11-12
3. Have you ever met someone and very quickly concluded that they were probably saved? What was it about them that made you come to that conclusion? Do you think you possess those same qualities?

4. How sure are you about your salvation? Explain.
5. Was there a time when you doubted your salvation? Explain. How did your assurance come about?
6. Throughout the epistle of John, the author uses three tests to help us determine the authenticity of our salvation. Doctrine — Do I believe the truth? Obedience — Do I have an ongoing commitment to growing in obedience? And Relationships — Do I live a life of sacrificial love for others? In other words, what is my response to God's truth, my sin, and other people? How would you answer these three questions?
 - Do you believe the truth about Jesus Christ?
 - Do you have an ongoing commitment to growing in obedience?
 - Do you live a life of sacrificial love for others?
7. One reason for doubting one's salvation is a lack of salvation. In other words, some people doubt their salvation for good reason — they aren't actually saved. How is it possible to think you are saved but be mistaken?
8. A second reason for doubt is believing false doctrine. Which false doctrines about salvation and the Gospel can lead to a lack of assurance?
9. What should you do if you aren't sure about your salvation?

The Last Word: "A Christian will never be comfortable with sin reigning in them. Ever! If any area of their life is dominated by sin, there will be a serious discomfort level in the life of the Christ-follower. If a Christian has an area of sin that dominates their life, they will be miserable until what doesn't belong in the body is gotten rid of."
Perry Noble, NewSpring Church