

# 5

## Leader Guide

### We're Gonna Mess Up

*May 22, 2022*

**Main Passage: 1 John 2:1-2**

#### Theological Theme

Christians have been saved from sin, but still battle its influence and need to repent when they give into sin. Yet, they do not despair, even when they sin, because Jesus Christ is able and willing to save them. His saving work carries on through their entire lives until glory.

#### Introduction

- ❓ Have you ever been rock climbing? What types of safety measures do rock climbers use to try and ensure they don't face ultimate harm if they do fall?
- ❓ How might we relate this to the Christian life?

Rock climbers take numerous measures to ensure their safety before reaching for their first handhold in the rock. Most importantly, they make sure they are attached to a rope that is kept taut by a partner on the ground. This rope is the only thing that stands between a climber falling to a catastrophic injury or death if they lose their grip. When a climber falls, the rope catches them and keeps them from crashing to the ground.

Similarly, Christians are kept safe from destruction from sin by Christ. Though Christians may fall, they are kept safe by Christ's work on their behalf. Jesus's death on the cross was sufficient not only to cover the sins that a person has committed in the past but also to cover the sins they will commit in the future.

## 1. A New Heart (1 John 2:1a)

It is unthinkable for a Christian who has truly recognized his or her desperate situation and looked to Christ for salvation to then have the notion to sin heartily because they have a free ticket to heaven. The fact of the matter is that a person who has truly been born again has been transformed completely. They now have a distaste for sin and a desire for the things of God.

## 2. A Continued Hope (1 John 2:1b)

This text reminds us of two important theological concepts. The first is “radical corruption,” which simply means mankind is corrupted by sin. The second, which follows it, is known as “regeneration.” This is when God opens the heart of an unbeliever so they might truly hear the gospel and respond with faith and repentance as He did with Lydia in Philippi (Acts 16:14).

## 3. An Effective Work (1 John 2:2)

The perseverance of the saints is a precious and comforting doctrine that is clearly expressed in the Scriptures. The perseverance of the truly redeemed is so sure because of the surety and extent of the work of the One who guarantees it. Note that saints don’t persevere because they have the ability within themselves to do so but because the Spirit of God dwells in them, the Scriptures anchor them, prayer helps them, and Christ nourishes faith and repentance in them.

## Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?