

Keys

First John 1:1-4 presents the basis of John's statements about the incarnation--John's personal experience. John also explains why he wrote (5:13-15) 2 John 1-2 center on the theme of truth that is his concern in this letter. 3 John states the theme of hospitality--shown positively by Gaius and negatively by Diotrephes.

For further study

THE EPISTLE OF JOHN by James Montgomery Boice is an excellent homiletical series on these epistles. THE EPISTLES OF JOHN by F. F. Bruce is also a helpful work. EPISTLES OF JOHN by I. Howard Marshall is a more technical commentary in the New International Commentary series. THE EPISTLES OF JOHN by John R.W. Stott is an outstanding contribution in the Tyndale series.

b. Extended notes:

(1) Chapter summaries: 1 John

1. The word manifested to us physically, God is light, Christians should reflect it.
2. Believers obey and love God and Christians, but not the world...antichrists are about.
3. Children of God are known by holiness, children of Satan by sin. Love is practical
4. Test the spirits: doctrinally, practically. Show love.
5. Love tested; doctrine tested. Facts of assurance, intercession.

(2) Further thinking:

- Johannine contrasts (light, dark, etc.)
- concepts of tests of life
- aspects of believer's freedom: from sin and sinning
- the Johannine "comma"
- relationship of physical health and spiritual health...
- modern versions of Diotrephes

c. Summary and conclusion

Probably no new Testament book is better "loved" than 1 John. Note the practicality of all three of these epistles and make an applicable understanding your goal.