

“Walking in the Light”

INTRODUCTION

In our new sermon series we will study 1 John. This epistle was written to the church in Ephesus and nearby believers to reassure them in their faith and to counter false teachings. In doing this John addresses the issues of sin, love, the family of God and distinguishing truth from error. Understanding these foundational truths will keep us living in the light of God’s love.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

Where were you the last time the lights failed?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Knowing the Foundation of Our Faith - Jesus as God in the Flesh

Q1. Read 1 John 1:1-2; Matthew 1:23; John 20:28-29

John wanted believers to know the truth so they would be able to distinguish it from error. True teachers affirm God’s word and teach that Jesus was fully God and fully man. What does John tell us in 1 John 1:1-2 about the way he acquired his knowledge concerning what he calls the word of life? How does Matthew 1:23 confirm the deity of Jesus? How did Thomas address Jesus and how did Jesus’s response affirm who He was (John 20:28-29)?

Understanding the Reality of Our Fellowship – with God & Each Other.

Q2. Read John 14:23; John 17:20-21; 1 John 1:3-4

God has made us an incredible offer to enjoy a close fellowship with Him. What action of ours is that offer conditioned upon (John 14:23)? Jesus petitioned the Father to make all believers one. To what did He compare the unity we would have, and what would be the result of displaying that kind of unity? 1 John 1:3-4 explains that he is writing to the Ephesians so they would have fellowship with God and one another, but also so that they would have joy. Share with your group, the times you have experienced joy through close Christian fellowship.

Living in the Truth of God’s Word – the Power of God’s Promises

Q3. Read 1 John 1:5-10

In 1 John 1:5-10 we see the relationship between sin (walking in darkness) and broken fellowship. What does 1 John 1:9 tell us about how to move from the darkness of sin to restored fellowship? In what ways have you seen sin separate believers? How can we facilitate restoring a believer who is walking in darkness? Is there someone in your life you can confide in and confess to? Is your Life Group a confidential and safe place to confess?

Q4. Read John 8:31-32

God’s word is the key to living in the light. Describe the difference between reading the Word and abiding in the Word? How does the knowledge and application of God’s Word give you freedom?

WRAP-UP

John wrote this epistle to the believers at Ephesus to keep them in the light of truth. He countered the false teaching that Jesus was not fully God and fully man. He encouraged believers to stay in fellowship with God and each other in order to increase their joy and their effectiveness as witnesses of Christ. And he assured them that they could walk in the light of God’s truth and His promises of forgiveness if they abide in His word and confess their sins.

Memory Verse

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.
1 John 1:7 ESV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs: _____

Challenge: Pray and ask God to help you recognize false teaching in its current forms. Ask for wisdom to discern the truth about Jesus and the truth about sin.

1 John 1:1-2 ESV - 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us--

John 20:28-29 ESV - 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 14:23 ESV - 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

John 17:20-21 ESV - 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

1 John 1:3-4 ESV - 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Read 1 John 1:5-10 in your Bible.

John 8:31-32 ESV - 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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Prayers Con't: _____

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