

Lesson #1: 1 John 1:1-4

Discuss

- 1. Discuss what John says is at the core of the gospel.**

****Why is that so important?**

- 2. Brainstorm as a group some of the best practices in reminding each other of the gospel.**

****What needs to be emphasized about Jesus today?**

- 3. What is the foundation for Christian fellowship?**

****How does the foundation impact the type of fellowship?**

****Non-Christian vs. Christian Fellowship**

- 4. Examine the connection between fellowship and joy.**

Apply

- 5. Evaluate the quality of Christian fellowship in your life. What are some goals that you could set as an individual and a group?**

- 6. Who is someone that you could invite to join your fellowship?**

Lesson #2: 1 John 1:5-10

Discuss

- 1. As the passages are read, what stands out to you about God's light?**
- 2. What does it mean to walk in the darkness? Describe a prototype of a person who was walking in darkness.**

**Discuss the difference between struggling with sin and walking in darkness.

- 3. What does it mean to walk in the light? Describe the prototype of a person who was walking in the light.**

- 4. One major issue to consider in this whole discussion is sin.**

**Examine the response John does not want in v.8 and v.10:

--Why is that sort of response so appealing?

**Examine the response John does want and the promise given to us in v.9:

- 5. How does walking in the light impact our relationship with other people?**

Apply

- 6. Assess and confess the patterns of sin in your life:**
 - What sins are you struggling with?
 - How are they affecting your relationships?
 - How can you begin to deal with those sins?

Lesson #3: 1 John 2:1-6

Discuss

- 1. Based on v.1, sin is clearly detestable to John. What is so detestable about sin?**

**If you had to evaluate the Christian attitude towards sin in general on scale of 1-10, what number would you give it? Why?

- 2. The goal of John is that we would not sin, and yet we all do. When a growing Christian does sin, what sort of reaction should he or she have?**

**What about Jesus that is comforting when we sin?

- 3. Examine the link between our fellowship with God and obedience in v.3-5.**

**What has Jesus commanded us to do?

**Given the centrality of obedience, what moves us toward obedience and what pulls us away from Jesus' commands?

- 4. Discuss the connection between our fellowship with God and imitation in v.5.**

**How did Jesus walk? From the passages read, what stands out to you?

Apply

- 5. As you reflect on Jesus' commands and character, which ones can you focus on this week?**

Lesson #4: 1 John 2:7-14

Discuss

- 1. In what ways do you see and experience v.8 – “the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining”?**
- 2. After calling believers to obey Jesus' commands, what command does John focus in on in this world mixed with darkness and light?**

**Discuss the priority of love in a Christians' life in comparison with other qualities. In your faith, where does most of your time go towards?

** Discuss how to live with a focus on both grace and obedience. How do we respond to those who claim commandments are not important because God will forgive me anyways?

- 3. Discuss the connection between our love of others and our spiritual growth.**

**How does loving others influence our growth?

**How does mistreating others affect our growth?

- 4. Analyze the way that John assures the different groups of people of their spiritual standing (12-14). Which group do you identify with? How does assurance impact obedience to love?**

Apply

- 5. Go back to the list of places of darkness, pick one area in particular that is in the most need of you and discuss how could this group focus on loving and bringing light to that area?**

Lesson #5: 1 John 2:15-17

Discuss

- 1. Explore how John explains the world in v.16-17. What does he mean by it?**

**Evaluate this statement: "Everything in the world's culture is evil."

- 2. Analyze why John commands us not to love the world.**

**Describe what the consequences could be for loving the world.

- 3. Despite the world's ugliness, we all know there is an appeal. Evaluate the appeal of the world. List the top 10 things most appealing in the world. What area of your life reflects a love for the world?**

- 4. John is clear that we should not love the world. How are we supposed to interact with the world? Discuss the proper interaction a Christian should have with the world.**

Matthew 5:13-16:

John 17:14-18:

**How do we remain involved in the world and yet not in love with it?

Apply

- 5. Evaluate your interaction with world and its things. How "salty" are you? Where is your "light" shining?**