



# Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

*For the Week of October 4, 2015*



## 1 John 1:5 – 2:6

5 Now this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light and there is absolutely no darkness in Him. 6 If we say, "We have fellowship with Him," yet we walk in darkness, we are lying and are not practicing the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, "We don't have any sin," we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father —Jesus Christ the Righteous One. 2 He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.

3 This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping His commands. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," yet doesn't keep His commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God is perfected. This is how we know we are in Him: 6 The one who says he remains in Him should walk just as He walked.

## Sermon Outline

- This week we learned that the enemy of the "real life" is SIN.
- John spells out three approaches to dealing with sin:
  - Covering it up (lying)
  - Confessing it
  - Conquering it
- In order to conquer sin we must:
  - Be open, honest, and sincere
  - Walk in the light by being honest with God, self, and others
  - Obey God's Word

## WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What is one of the toughest secrets you ever had to keep?
- What is the biggest "battle" you have ever conquered in your life?

## WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. How do you think sin robs us of the "real life" that God wants us to have?
2. 1 Peter 2:19 says that God has called us "out of darkness into His marvelous light." What are some things we do that seem "normal" that would likely be considered participating in darkness in God's eyes?
3. What are some ways you have attempted to cover your sin?
4. In John's first formula in verses 6-7 what does John instruct us to do? What does this mean?
5. What are the results of walking in the light according to verse 7?
6. How might someone be blind to their own sin?

7. What does John tell us we are supposed to do with our sin in verse 9? Why do you think we need to do this?
8. What does it mean when John says that Jesus is our Advocate and Propitiation for sin?
9. How does honesty help us to defeat the power of sin in our lives?
10. How can we become more obedient to God's Word?
11. How does walking in the light make life easier and more peaceful?
12. On a scale of 1-10, how would you grade yourself regarding your walk matching your talk?
13. What can you do to move ahead on that scale?

**WITNESS - Prayer Concerns from my Growth Group:**

- Who has God placed in your life who does not know Christ?
- How can we pray for your spiritual growth tonight?
- What other prayer concerns do you have?

Growth Groups!!

We are going to put together another Trunk or Treat this year! We need your support! We are asking that each Growth Group provide a themed trunk for this fun event for the UBC children.

When: Sunday, October 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: UBC EAST parking lot

What: 1 to 2 decorated trunks per Growth Group (or more)!

Each car provides their own 1) Candy to pass out; 2) Activity at their vehicle

We need each car to be set up and ready to go by 5:30 Sunday, October 25th!

